

## Arms sellers debate controls

PARIS (AP) — The world's five major arms sellers continued an unprecedented round of talks Tuesday on establishing guidelines to control the flow of weapons to the Middle East and other areas. French foreign ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said any agreement would probably include a new arms-control mechanism in the United Nations Security Council. The two-day meeting, which started Monday, involves the five permanent council members — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China. "I imagine that if there is an accord among the five permanent members, it would be of the nature of creating a dynamic" in the council and among the other arms exporters, Mr. Bernard said. The meeting, expected to be the first of a series, took place behind closed doors at a conference centre. It was unclear whether details of the talks would be disclosed. Mr. Bernard said the participants might issue a joint communiqué.

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## 200 face military trial in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Nearly 200 Muslim fundamentalists arrested in Tunisia in recent months on suspicion of conspiracy will stand trial in a military court, lawyers said Tuesday. Interior Minister Abdullah Kallal said in a statement published Tuesday that the defendants, members of the unrecognized Nahdha (Renaissance) movement, planned to carry out a military coup. The lawyers said the defendants included several dozen army officers and that no date had been set for the trials.

## Pakistan voices concern over Israelis

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan said Tuesday that the presence of young, fit Israelis in disputed Kashmir was incongruous, while newspapers speculated they might have been preparing a strike against a secret Pakistani nuclear plant. Senior foreign ministry official Shaharyar Mohammad Khan said his Indian counterpart Muchkund Dubey had insisted during talks in the Maldives last week that Israelis caught up in a recent kidnap drama were tourists.

## EC official to visit Israel

BRUSSELS (AP) — A top European Community (EC) official will travel to Israel later this week to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other high officials, the bloc said Tuesday. Abel Matutes, the community's top official for Mediterranean policy, will pay his first visit to Israel Wednesday and Thursday to discuss economic cooperation and other issues. He was scheduled to meet not only with Mr. Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levy and other government officials but also with a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories.

## Moscow may restore republic for Soviet Germans

BONN (R) — The Soviet Union may restore the autonomous republic for ethnic Germans that Josef Stalin dissolved in 1941, a senior Bonn official said Tuesday. Horst Waffenschmidt said Soviet officials agreed with him that a restored republic would help keep some of the two million ethnic Germans in the Soviet Union from leaving. Both sides are concerned about the steady migration to Germany of Soviet Germans, who complain of discrimination since the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union during World War II.

## CIA officer pleads guilty

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer pleaded guilty Tuesday to two misdemeanor charges of withholding information from Congress in the Iran-contra affair and agreed to cooperate in the continuing investigation of the arms-for-hostages scandal. Alan Fiers, former chief of the CIA's Central American Task Force, admitted that he withheld information from Congress about the diversion of Iran arms sale money to the contras and about Oliver North's secret operation to resupply the contras with weapons in 1985 and 1986.

## Bahrain to escort vessels near Kuwait

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain's navy will escort commercial vessels through mine-threatened shipping lanes off Kuwait, it was announced here Tuesday. The orders to the navy were given by Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, commander-in-chief of the Bahraini defence force. The coastal area has been cleared of all known mines to discourage an amphibious landing during the Gulf war. But explosives could still float in from nearby Iraqi waters, which were mined for the same reason. Many commercial vessels navigate the waters unaided.

# Iraq says its nuclear plans were peaceful

Dispute rages after fresh Iraqi disclosure of uranium programme

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq, saying its nuclear programme was peaceful, said in documents obtained Tuesday that it withheld information about its efforts to enrich uranium and destroyed some equipment for fear of a U.S. attack.

"Iraq had some good reasons connected with its national security which made it refrain from divulging some of the stages of this (peaceful nuclear) programme," said Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein in a letter to the U.N. secretary-general and U.N. nuclear energy officials.

"Among these reasons ... are the fear of exaggeration, abuse and aggression," he wrote. In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said "that's ridiculous" "Iraq has a programme to develop nuclear weapons," she said, but declined to say how far along the programme had progressed. "It is something the world wants destroyed and to know where every bit of it is," Ms. Tutwiler said.

Hussein's letter and lists of materials, equipment and locations were submitted Sunday in Arabic.

Iraq acknowledged it had three clandestine programmes to enrich uranium, but insisted all were for peaceful, not military, purposes. After Israel's attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor June 7, 1981, the letter said, Iraq decided on secrecy and self-reliance to protect itself.

In other documents, U.N. officials said, Iraq also admitted manufacturing about 500 grams of slightly enriched uranium. Experts say about 25 kilograms of highly enriched uranium are needed to make a nuclear weapon.

Mr. Hussein said Iraq's nuclear programme was subjected to "comprehensive destruction ... as a result of the (allied) aggression." He also said Iraq decided to destroy all the equipment that might constitute a violation of the Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

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## Ghozali: Algeria in dire financial crisis

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Amidst its political troubles, Algeria faces the worst financial crisis in its history and plans urgent talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about its foreign debt, the prime minister said Tuesday.

Sid Ahmad Ghozali told the National Assembly he would consult with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus about ways to ease the crisis without having to reschedule payments on the country's foreign debt of roughly \$25 billion.

On June 3, the IMF extended a credit of \$400 million to Algeria to assist its efforts to switch from a state-controlled to market economy. But on June 4, a massive anti-government protest campaign by Muslim fundamentalists erupted into violence. Mr. Ghozali was appointed prime minister June 5, the same day that President Chadli Benjedid declared a state of emergency.

Clashes continued on a sporadic basis until last week, and the cumulative death toll rose to 20.

## Kuwaiti parliament meets; deputies bitter

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — The national council opened Tuesday with prayers for those killed during the Gulf crisis and an agenda that emphasised reconstruction.

But some members said the assembly has no power over the government, and opposition groups say it is unconstitutional. "This assembly does not have the authority to force the government to do anything. It's very weak," said Khalifa Al Karafi, a businessman elected to the council.

"We want people to respect Kuwait, to say that was a good country to help," Mr. Karafi added. He said council members might push for resignations from military officers who fled from the invading Iraqis in August. The council includes 50 members voted into office in June 1990 elections which were boycotted by most of the opposition, and 25 chosen by the emir.

The national council was designated to replace the parliament which the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, dissolved in 1986. The council met only once before Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion. In his opening address Tuesday the emir said the council should

work hard on reconstruction until parliamentary elections, set for October 1992.

About 400 opposition members attended a rally at a private home Monday night to protest the council opening. They called for the return of a parliament under the 1962 constitution, a free press and the right to assemble in public.

No mention of the rally appeared in local papers. "The meeting was against the law, they must have permission from the ministry of the interior before I can publish their opinions," said Information Minister Badr Al Yacoub, who is an appointed member of the new council.

Most council members said they planned to follow the government's agenda of emphasising reconstruction of damaged buildings, ensuring Kuwait's security through international cooperation and getting back missing prisoners of war and property. Opposition members have predicted the council would be used to change election laws. But council members vowed their purpose was not to replace the parliament.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday meets U.N. special envoy Edouard Brunner (Petra photo)

## King, Brunner review peace prospects and role of U.N.

### U.N. envoy meets Masri, Ensour, says world body ready to work for implementation of resolutions

By a Jordan Times Staff  
Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday held talks with United Nations special Middle East envoy Edouard Brunner on efforts for peace in the region and the role of the U.N. in implementing Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and Mr. Brunner, who arrived here earlier in the day, reviewed prospects for a durable and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Taber Masri and Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour also met with the U.N. envoy, who was appointed by

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in March to give an impetus to peace efforts in the Middle East in the wake of the Gulf war.

The focus of the talks was the situation in the Middle East and Jordan's views concerning the role of the U.N. in achieving peace in the region, Petra said. The prime minister stressed the need for United Nations participation in the ongoing efforts for the implementation of international legitimacy.

Following his talks with Dr. Ensour, the U.N. envoy said that the world body remained ready to offer its good offices to all parties with a view to implementing U.N. resolutions.

"I am here to remind everybody that the United Nations is at

the disposal of all the parties to find a solution ... on the basis of Security Council resolutions," Mr. Brunner told reporters. Mr. Brunner arrived from Israel on the second leg of a Middle East tour that also will take him to Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

In Israel, Mr. Brunner was told by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that the Jewish state rejects any U.N. involvement in Middle East peace talks.

Israel wants a regional conference, brokered by the United States and the Soviet Union, to meet once and then break up into bilateral discussions between Israeli and Arab delegates.

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## Israel shrugs off call for its withdrawal from S. Lebanon

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Tuesday that his country has no intention of withdrawing from the zone it occupies in South Lebanon.

Mr. Arens' comment came a day after the U.S. State Department urged Israel to pull out of Lebanon now that Lebanese troops were deploying in the country's south and disarming Palestinian guerrillas.

However, Israel Radio quoted Mr. Arens as saying he has received no formal request to withdraw Israeli forces from Lebanon.

"There is no talk of any withdrawal from the security zone," Mr. Arens said on the radio. "We have paid a dear price over the years to ensure the safety of citizens in the north of the country. We don't intend to give up this achievement."

Mr. Arens spoke while reviewing a military exercise in Syria's Golan Heights, which Israel occupied in the 1967 war and declared part of Israeli territory in 1981.

On Monday, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said that the United States was encouraged by the Lebanese army's efforts to confine Palestinian guerrillas into refugee camps and take away their heavy weapons.

The Palestinians agreed to give up the weapons last week after a four-day battle in which the army forced them out of positions outside the camps as part of the Lebanese government's effort to reassert control over the country's south.

Ms. Tutwiler went on to say: "We believe the security and safety of all people of South Lebanon and northern Israel can best be assured by a strong, effective central government in Beirut."

Asked whether Syria should first withdraw the 40,000 troops it keeps in Lebanon with the approval of the Lebanese government, Ms. Tutwiler added: "I'm not going to get into a first or second."

Mr. Arens, in his comments on the radio, noted it was longstanding

U.S. policy to remove all foreign forces from Lebanon, both Syrian and Israeli.

He said there has been an increase in efforts to infiltrate into Israel from Lebanon as the Lebanese army moved south. Officials had earlier expressed fears that the army's deployment would force guerrillas south towards the Israeli-controlled zone.

Israel has exercised control over South Lebanon since a 1978 invasion of the country. U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 of that year called on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

Israel invaded Lebanon again in 1982 and consolidated control over the south through a proxy militia when it withdrew the bulk of its forces in 1985.

Lebanon asked the United States Saturday to put pressure on Israel to leave Jezzine, an enclave beyond the zone that is held by Israel's 3,000-man Lebanese militia.

Britain said Tuesday it welcomed signs the Lebanese army was restoring control in southern Lebanon.

## Strike marks 43rd month of intifada

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied territories Tuesday staged a general strike marking 43 months of the uprising against occupation.

Israeli soldiers clamped a curfew on Khan Yunis in southern Gaza to search for suspects in the shooting of two Israelis since Sunday, Arab reports said.

The general strike, a traditional measure staged at the end of each month of the uprising, was called by two underground groups, the Unified National Leadership and the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas.

Public transportation and shops were closed in much of the occupied territories, and some building sites in Israel were idle as many Palestinians stayed home from work. Israel radio reported that some Arab workers reported to their jobs in Israel.

In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, (DFLP), claimed responsibility for shooting and wounding an Israeli man, Amnon Yahalom, in southern Gaza Monday.

The army said Yahalom, from an Israeli collective farm outside the Gaza Strip, was shot while waiting to pick up Arab workers at Morag junction near Khan Yunis.

On Sunday another Israeli man was shot and wounded near the same site, where he had also travelled to take Arab workers to Israel.

The DELP statement referred only to Monday's shooting which it called "an assassination"

attempt against an Israeli armed settler who was provoking Palestinian citizens. The Israeli settler traded fire with the group, which shot him and severely injured him.

Dozens of Palestinians from nearby Rafah and Khan Yunis were detained for questioning about the shooting Monday night. Soldiers searched mosques, clinics and houses early Tuesday in Khan Yunis and the neighbouring refugee camp as the area's approximately 85,000 residents were confined to their homes.

Shmuel Zucker, commander of the Gaza Strip, called on Israeli employers to pick up their workers at designated roadblocks at the entrance to Gaza and to avoid entering the area.

Arab reporters said that the army cut down 200 fruit trees that lined the road near the Morag junction after the two attacks.

Israeli settlers called on the government to build a new Jewish settlement in the area of the attack site as a response to the shooting.

Asher Stern, "head of security" for Gaza Strip settlements, said plans were being finalised to expand the 15-family Jewish settlement Morag near the junction where the two Israelis were wounded.

A military court sentenced six Palestinian activists from the West Bank's Tulkarm refugee camp to life in prison for killing Arabs they suspected of collaborating with Israel, the army com-

(Continued on page 5)

## Yugoslav, Slovene leaders trade charges

LIUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (Agencies) — Slovene and federal officials Tuesday accused each other of jeopardising peace, a day after an agreement meant to give politicians instead of armies a chance to decide Yugoslavia's future.

Meanwhile, in ethnically divided Croatia, which like Slovenia declared independence June 25, scattered incidents of shooting involving the federal army were reported overnight.

The federal presidency dispatched two representatives to urge Slovenian leaders to obey the terms of a pact reached under European Community (EC) auspices. The federal envoys began meeting in Ljubljana with Sloven President Milan Kucan.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, citing unidentified sources, said the talks were deadlocked over lifting the blockades at federal army bases in Slovenia.

An EC team was to arrive later Tuesday to monitor the truce in Slovenia.

The federal presidency — nominally the supreme commander of the army — charged Tuesday that Slovenia had failed to lift a blockade of some federal army units, was holding police prisoners, and had not deactivated its territorial defence units.

A Slovenian foreign ministry spokesman said all the soldiers captured by Slovene defence forces had been released, but noted the situation was "fluid" because some federal soldiers refused to return home.

The Red Cross said all soldiers without rank and federal police had been released, as had 86 of 91

officers. Tension continued to rise between Serbia and Croatia, Yugoslavia's biggest republics and old enemies, amid the efforts to implement the EC-brokered peace plan.

An official in Osijek, a Croatian town near the frontier with the Serbian province of Vojvodina, reported several incidents during the night with federal army troops across the border.

Croatian officials say the army, whose officers are predominantly Serbs, is backing Serbian expansionist ambitions and helping members of Croatia's Serbian minority who have taken up arms against its independence. Serbia denies the charges.

Osijek Mayor Zlatko Kramaric told a news conference troops fired on a Croatian police car in the nearby town of Ilok, killing a policeman and injuring two. Zagreb Radio said an anti-tank missile hit the car and the man burned to death.

Tanjug said Croatian paramilitary forces had fired mortars at army units in Backa Palanka, on the opposite bank of the Danube River from Ilok.

In another incident, Croatian radio said army tanks blockaded the police station in the frontier town of Glinja after the army said police fired on its men. Glinja is south of Zagreb, the Croatian capital, about 400 kilometres west of Osijek.

Violence between Serbs and Croats has escalated steadily in the past six months as Croatia and Slovenia stepped up break-away moves and declared independence June 25.

## Human rights abuses abound in Mideast — Amnesty

LONDON (R) — Political

arrests, torture and summary executions abounded in the Middle East in 1990, focusing international criticism on more than a dozen countries, the human rights group Amnesty International said Wednesday.

In its annual report, Amnesty said thousands of people had been detained and hundreds unlawfully executed or tortured in the region.

"In Syria, thousands of suspected government opponents were still imprisoned from previous years, some of them relatives who had been arrested in place of family members," the

report said.

"In Egypt thousands of members and supporters of Islamic groups were detained under emergency laws. In Israel and the occupied territories some 25,000 Palestinians were arrested in conjunction with the intifada, with over 4,000 being detained without charge or trial," it added.

The report also named Iran, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Libya as having detained opponents without trial.

"Prisoners and detainees in virtually every country in the Middle East were tortured or

ill-treated. Often they were beaten to get them to confess to crimes sometimes the torture was simply a form of punishment," the report said.

"In occupied Kuwait, Amnesty International documented 38 types of torture by Iraqi forces. There, as in other countries, the methods included beating on the soles of the feet, extinguishing cigarettes on people's bodies, giving electric shocks and flogging."

Prisoners were also mistreated in Saudi Arabia, Israel, Iran, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, it said.

"During 1990, thousands of political prisoners who 'disappeared' in previous years were still missing," the report said, naming Iraq, Turkey, Morocco and Lebanon as places where the fate of political prisoners was not known.

Iraqi, Israeli and Syrian troops were guilty of killing civilians in unjustified circumstances, it said.

The report criticised the retention of the death penalty by every Middle East country.

"Iran was again the country where Amnesty International recorded the largest number of executions, with more than 700

people killed by the state this way, more than 100 of them after being convicted of drug trafficking," it said.

Iraq was named for executing British-born journalist Farzad Bazoft and for allegedly killing 120 soldiers who refused to take part in its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

In Morocco 140 people were under sentence of death although none was killed.

"Other countries where death sentences were passed or carried out include Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Tunisia," it said.







## Senate, House committees meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament, Wednesday, has been called for a meeting which started the current extraordinary parliamentary session to discuss the Royal Decree and the agenda of the House.

Heads and rapporteurs of various committees in the Lower House met, meanwhile, under the chairmanship of House Speaker Abdul Qadir Arabiyat and reviewed a plan of action to deal with the different matters to be debated during the extraordinary session.

Agreement was reached at the meeting on holding two Lower House sessions each week and whenever it is necessary, according to the speaker's second deputy, Fawzi Tuqumeh.

Dr. Tuqumeh also announced that the House's next session would be held Sunday evening and the following one on Wednesday morning.

At the meeting Tuesday, discussion among the heads of committees and rapporteurs focused on procedural matters related to the committees' work. It was agreed that all activities and functions of House members can be relayed to various official organisations through the House's Secretariat which, for its part, should provide all possible facilities for the deputies' activities. Dr. Tuqumeh said.

The role of the minister of state for parliamentary affairs in relation to the House and means of stimulating the House's Information Department were among issues discussed at the meeting with Dr. Arabiyat, Dr. Tuqumeh added.

Later, Dr. Abdullah Akaileh was elected chairman of the House's Financial Committee to succeed Dr. Abdullah Ensour, who was appointed foreign minister.

## Minister criticises former economic policy, stresses need to diversify markets

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb Tuesday criticised the Kingdom's former economic policy of relying on a limited number of neighbouring markets to buy national Jordanian products and said that that policy exposed the Kingdom to various political and economic upheavals abroad.

Addressing the opening session of a three-day seminar on ways of finding foreign markets for Jordanian goods, the minister stressed the need for Jordan to go ahead with current plans to diversify its export products and seek new markets abroad.

"Before the Gulf crisis the main Jordanian sectors witnessed remarkable progress and neighbouring countries were a big market for Jordanian products, a process that contributed to supporting the Kingdom's balance of payments, increased revenues and partially helped towards solving the unemployment problem," the minister pointed out. But, he said, the economic and political upheavals in the neighbouring states have adversely affected Jordan and its economic sector, drastically reducing its exports.

Before the Gulf crisis, Mr. Abul Ragheb said, Jordan was trying to expand its markets abroad and diversify its exports, the crisis has brought this issue on top of the Kingdom's priorities and now there is dire need for close cooperation between the public and private sectors to help the country overcome the present predicament.

The minister said, however, that so many achievements can not be accomplished overnight but thanks to the infrastructure, like ports, communications and industrial cities as well as high-level services, like banks and consultancy firms, the country can and must overcome the present difficulty.

Mr. Abul Ragheb pointed out that the process of upgrading local capabilities and skills in marketing Jordan's products abroad can only be achieved through the development of the country's technical and administrative skills. He said this also depended on the Kingdom's ability to adapt production to the needs and requirements of the foreign markets.

The minister called on concerned parties to conduct proper and thorough studies on markets abroad and to analyse the needs of foreign markets to pave the way for a successful marketing system. This, he said, should be coupled with a new initiative on the part of the private sector to offer technical services and train people in industrial installations and offer incentives for improved production.

The minister said issues concerning the function of free zones, and customs should be dealt with through the enactment of new laws by the Lower House of Parliament in its current extraordinary session.

Mr. Abul Ragheb referred to a visit to Jordan, by the Chinese prime minister, which ended in agreements for increasing the volume of Jordan's potash, phosphate and other products to Chinese markets, and said that Jordan's worldwide credibility served as an asset for encouraging other countries to buy more Jordanian products.

The minister said that plans for joint industrial ventures would soon be launched by China and Jordan. A Chinese delegation is expected in the country soon to follow up discussions on this matter.

Mr. Darwazah said that the meeting was called to give impetus to the country's drive to stop its dependence on traditional markets and look beyond to world markets.

According to Mr. Darwazah, Indonesia now offers the largest South East Asian market for Jordanian products.

"At present an Indonesian trade delegation is in Jordan to see what products can be imported prior to concluding a deal," Mr. Darwazah added.

He said that a team from his society will go to Austria in September in order to open talks on providing Austrian markets with Jordanian goods.

The three-day seminar will deal with studies and research work conducted on the marketing of Jordanian products, data and information related to marketing, the role of international fairs in promoting exports and Jordan's exports problems.



PRINCESS BASMA VISITS SCOUTS CAMP: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, president of the Jordanian Scouts and Guides Society, Monday visited the 6th National Scouting Camp, currently being held in Dibbin. Addressing participants in the camp, Princess Basma highlighted the importance of such camps in encouraging collective work, promoting the spirit of cooperation among mem-

bers of the scout movements and enhancing belonging to the community and the homeland. Princess Basma also visited an exhibition displaying maps, compasses, pictures of leaders of the Great Arab Revolt, prominent Jordanian figures and scout leaders. Taking part in the five-day camp, which is organised by the Education Ministry, are 300 scouts.

## IATA office opens in Amman

By Nidal M. Ibrahim  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and government of Jordan officials Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding that will move IATA's regional offices to Amman.

In a formal ceremony at the Ministry of Transport, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communication Ali Suheimat and IATA Director General Gunter Eser discussed the implications of the move.

"We're looking forward to good cooperation and hope to, together, develop better civil aviation" in Jordan and the Middle East, Mr. Eser said.

Mr. Suheimat cited Jordan's central location, experience in the civil aviation field and communication capabilities as reasons Amman was able to attract IATA.

"Jordan... is keen to be responsive to every effort that aims at developing cooperation in every field that can serve the interests of the region's countries and peoples," he said.

The decision to move the office to Amman came after consultations with IATA's 201 members and the unanimous approval of all the Arab airlines, Mr. Eser said.

"We, at IATA, are proud to be installed in Amman to serve our members," he said.

Other sites in the Middle East, including Cairo, were considered, Mr. Eser said. Amman's central geographical location and the support of the Jordanian government were major reasons for the decision to relocate to Amman, he said.

IATA's regional office was originally located in Beirut. But because of the civil war organisation officials moved

the office to Geneva. The move to Amman comes because the organisation wanted to better serve its clients in the area and felt a centrally located office would be one of the way to accomplish this, Mr. Eser said.

Despite the improving situation in Beirut, IATA has no plans to again relocate to the Lebanese capital, Mr. Eser said. "Amman is so well located and we don't want to spend all this money moving," he said.

IATA, originally known as the International Air Traffic Association, was founded in the Hague on Aug. 28, 1919. The organisation, whose 201 member airlines represent 120 nations, includes among its goals the promotion of "safe, regular and economical air transport for the benefit of the peoples of the world," according to its Act of Incorporation.

In addition, the organisation serves to coordinate the efforts of its members and help its members cooperate with the International Civil Aviation Organisation and other international organisations.

One of IATA's main tasks at present will be to help the industry rebound from its current slowdown, Mr. Eser said. Member carriers, affected by the worldwide economic slowdown and the lingering effects of the Gulf war, have reported sharply lower passenger traffic, he said.

During the first five months of 1991, passenger traffic declined by 12 per cent, compared to the same period last year, Mr. Eser said.

In May, passenger traffic was down "only five per cent," compared to 1990, he said. "It is an indication of the state of the industry when some members are greeting these num-

bers with a sigh of relief," he said.

Compounding the problems is the fact that the war, and the resulting dropoff in activity, has come on the heels of a reported \$2.7 billion loss reported by the industry in 1990, Mr. Eser said.

That loss, he said, was not only due to the crisis precipitated by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, but also to the high fuel price and insurance cost increases.

Still, early signs that the world economy may be rebounding from its current recession coupled with the improving political climate in the Middle East gives reason for optimism, Mr. Eser said.

"We at IATA are hopeful that traffic levels will return to 1990 levels in the near future," he said.

The organisation's new office will be located in the Housing Bank Centre, near the offices of Royal Jordanian.

In bringing IATA to Amman, the Jordanian government agreed to provide IATA with an office free of rent and exemption from customs, duties and taxes, according to an official with the Commercial Department of Royal Jordanian. In addition, the IATA office will be treated as a diplomatic mission.

Jordan, for its part, will serve as the aviation centre of the region which will result in promotion of the area through IATA. The establishment of the office will initially provide no new jobs, the official said. As the office increases its activities, jobs will then be created, according to the official.

"We have not asked them to employ people as such but they must employ Jordanians," the official said. "We have allowed them only one foreigner."

## BCCI reopens, allows limited withdrawals

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Worried depositors thronged the branches of the troubled Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) Tuesday for withdrawals despite Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) assurances that it had almost full coverage for their deposits, but a widely expected run on the bank failed to materialise.

About JD 1.5 million were withdrawn from the three branches of the BCCI in Amman as banking hours drew to a close at midday, but the figure was lower than the initially expected JD 4 million in withdrawals, officials said.

"We served around 700 customers at our three branches today, and it was quite an orderly process," said Fakhri Bilbeisi, regional manager of BCCI.

The number of people who turned up Tuesday and the amount withdrawn were "much, much below what we expected," Mr. Bilbeisi said. The total number of BCCI depositors in Jordan is around 7,000, he added.

Under instructions given by the CBJ, all depositors with less than JD 1,000 in their accounts were allowed full withdrawal and those with more could get JD 1,000 and 25 per cent of the balance.

Further withdrawals will be permitted at amounts and intervals set by the CBJ pending a final decision on the fate of the bank, whose headquarters in Luxembourg was taken over by a government-appointed administrator Monday.

An Amman BCCI staff member said the bank's branches were prepared to handle a "massive flood of customers today," and had made enough funds in cash available to meet demands. "But there was no flood, no panicky scenes or screaming customers," he said, preferring anonymity.

"It appears that people in Jordan have not panicked," said Mr. Bilbeisi. "Some of our customers even said they would come back later to withdraw from their accounts," he told the Jordan Times.

Long queues had formed in front of the BCCI branches in Amman — downtown Amman, Mahatta and Jabal Amman — even before they opened their doors Tuesday. Policemen and security forces kept order. There was a small scuffle at the downtown branch, but witnesses said it was a private quarrel between two customers rather than any dispute directly involving the bank.

Tuesday was the first day of operation for the BCCI branches in Jordan after a three-day closure prompted by the international collapse of the Luxembourg-based scandal-plagued bank, which was seized by European monetary authorities in an apparently coordinated move on Friday.

"I think the Jordanian authorities are trying to assess the overall situation of the bank and the first day of operations should have provided them with a good picture to help them chart a future course," commented a banking official. The closure order on the

Jordanian branches was issued by the CBJ, which, according to officials, was aware of the troubles of the bank and had ordered the transfer to the Central Bank of all BCCI foreign currency accounts operated through the BCCI's branches in Jordan.

According to Mr. Bilbeisi, 94 per cent of all foreign currency deposits had already been transferred to the CBJ by the time BCCI troubles mushroomed, heralding the European move against the bank.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi went on Jordan Television Saturday to assure all BCCI customers in Jordan that they would not lose their deposits.

BCCI assets in Jordan are estimated at \$100 million. Customer's foreign currency accounts were worth \$29 million and dinar accounts amounted to JD 36 million before the bank branches reopened Tuesday.

Under Jordanian laws, all banks operating in the Kingdom are considered as Jordanian banks and are subject to the banking regulations laid down by the Central Bank. In line with the regulations, BCCI has a paid-up capital of JD 5 million, and the bank's international debts or assets have little bearing on Jordanian accounts as long as depositors' funds are fully covered within the Kingdom.

Economists and banking experts said it was too early for the Jordanian authorities to reach any decision regarding the future course of BCCI.

## PLO appeals to U.N., world to help end Israeli practices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Tuesday called world attention to the plight of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails and their ongoing hunger strike and appealed to the United Nations and world organisations to help put an end to Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinians.

For the past 17 days nearly 18,000 detainees in Israeli jails have been maintaining a hunger strike in support of their demand for better treatment, an end to torture and for granting other rights, Palestine Ambassador Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim said at a press conference.

Mr. Abdul Rahim appealed to the Pope, the International Com-

mittee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the U.N. secretary general and the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International as well as Arab and international humanitarian organisations to intervene on behalf of the detainees and end Israel's inhuman treatment which, he said, violated human rights and the Geneva Conventions.

The ambassador appealed to these organisations to send a fact-finding team to Israeli jails and concentration camps to investigate "atrocities and inhuman practices" against the Palestinians.

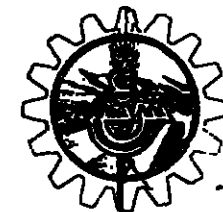
He urged the ICRC to force Israel to stop its policy of starving the detainees and to ensure they

receive sufficient food and clothing as well as hygiene and medical treatment.

Following the end of the Gulf war, the Israeli authorities launched a severe campaign against the Palestinian detainees inside 43-jails and concentration camps, the ambassador said. He added that the prisoners had been exposed to systematic torture and starvation, which led the 18,000 detainees to start a hunger strike.

Mr. Abdul Rahim voiced dismay at the lack of any condemnation of Israeli practices on the part of Arab and foreign countries.

Three rallies have been held in Amman in recent weeks to protest conditions in the prisons.



Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

### Potash Production Expansion

Project No. 30-4857 (APC-25/90)  
Advertisement for major equipment supply

The Arab Potash Company Limited (A.P.C.) of Amman, Jordan plans to expand production capacity by 400,000 tonnes per year. The facilities to be located on a site adjoining the existing refinery near Salt, on the southern end of the Dead Sea, about 200km north of the port of Aqaba.

A.P.C. has applied for financing to the World Bank. The proceeds of the loan will be applied to payments for the supply of the required equipment in accordance with the guidelines of the World Bank.

Purchases will be made from the member countries of the World Bank and Switzerland.

The Arab Potash Company invites suppliers, interested in tendering for any of the following equipment, to apply for tender documents to A.P.C. or Jacobs at the address shown below. The cost for each tender package shall be U.S.\$40 — non refundable.

- Slurry Pumps
- Liquor Pumps

- Sump Pumps
- Gear Pumps

1. Mr. Issa Gammoh,  
Projects Manager,  
The Arab Potash Co. Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 1470  
Amman — Jordan

2. Mr. M. Hodgins,  
Jacobs International Inc.,  
Merrion House,  
Merrion Road,  
Dublin 4, — Ireland

Fax No.: 962-3-377125/Site.  
Fax No.: 962-6-874416/Amman H.O.  
Telex No. 21683 Potash Jo.  
Tel No.: 666165/6 - Amman  
665116 or 03-377121/3 - Site

Fax No.: 353-1-2695497  
Telex No.: 30295 JCBS-EI  
Tel. No.: 353-1-2695666

Tender documents will be available to suppliers on and from July 10th, 1991. The closing date for submitting the tenders will be 12:00 noon August 14th, 1991.

A.Y. Ensour,  
Managing Director,  
The Arab Potash Co. Ltd.,

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King receives IATA chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Tuesday at the Royal Court the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Director General Gunter Eser, who is currently visiting Jordan.

#### Deadline for food coupons July 31

AMMAN (Petra) — The last date for citizens to receive food ration coupons distributed by the Ministry of Supply will be July 31, according to an official source at the ministry. The source said citizens who do not receive their coupons before this deadline would lose their right to buy subsidised supplies.

#### Citizen donates flour for the needy

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) sources said Tuesday a Jordanian citizen, Riyadh Al Mideh, has donated 60 tonnes of flour to the society to be distributed to needy families in the Balqa Governorate. JNRCS director in Salt will start distributing the flour in cooperation with Mr. Mideh next week, the sources said.

#### July 31 deadline for changing car plates

AMMAN (Petra) — The Interior Ministry Tuesday set July 31 as the deadline for replacing Iraq-Kuwait car plates with Jordanian plates. The ministry said defaulters would be subject to penalties provided for by the regulations and legislation in force.

### JD 100,000 allocated for Karak Castle

KARAK (Petra) — Director General of the Department of the Antiquities Safwan Al Tal Tuesday said that the department had allocated JD 100,000 for carrying

out the first phase of maintaining Karak Castle.

The first phase includes the restoration of the castle's entrance and the front yard, and

construction of stairs, rebuilding the stone walls, removing stones, earth and grass from the castle's yards and maintaining the museum.

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Above position offers attractive salary, compensation package and fringe benefits.

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1978.

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## Economic Forum

# How Jordan subsidised the Kuwaiti economy

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

I HONESTLY believe that the Jordanians and Palestinians should not be kicked out of Kuwait. Now you bet you know for sure my reasons for that. And you read these reasons or hear about them very often. Jordanians and Palestinians have contributed to the building up of modern Kuwait since the early fifties, when life there was hell or something like it. Many of them gave Kuwait not only their minds but also their lives. The Kuwaitis, you may add, are overreacting and by torturing Jordanians and Palestinians they are making a very bad investment in the future.

The above is the classical argument for asking the Kuwaitis to go back to their senses and respect people's human rights and change their treatment of Palestinians and Jordanians. However, these are not my reasons for objecting to the kicking out of Jordanians from Kuwait because I honestly believe that they should be pulled out from Kuwait. The Jordanian government must call on all of them, under the force of law, to quit Kuwait instantly. The Kuwaitis have mistreated them and thus displayed deliberate bad intentions for which they should be punished by pulling Jordanian labour from Kuwait. This will be a punishment simply because the economic balance of their presence there is in favour of Kuwait. How?

A country, say Jordan, starts to invest in human capital (doctors, chemists, engineers, professors, nurses, lawyers etc.)

immediately after the citizen is born. By the time a Jordanian graduates or becomes a professional and is ready to start production, his country will have invested heavily in him. At this very point, a country, say Kuwait, snatches him and effectively takes over the investment made by Jordan over 20 or 30 years because if it wants to have a Kuwaiti doing the same job, Kuwait will have to invest that much in its citizens. Instead of that, Kuwait takes the easiest, swiftest and cheapest way and picks up a Jordanian. The Jordanian economy, in other words, has been undertaking investments in social overhead (human capital) on behalf of Kuwait. It used its very scarce resources to enhance the Kuwaiti economy and the welfare of its people. Now you recognise that we are talking mainly about brain drain which is a very profitable business. Otherwise, for example, the Americans would not have the present immigration policy of accepting a wide variety of skilled immigrants to the United States.

Now Kuwait pays a salary to, say a Jordanian doctor employed there. And it may be a very good one. But this is a reward to him personally for the day-to-day services he produces and renders to Kuwait. But Kuwait does not pay Jordan any amount as a return on the investments the Jordanian economy made in that doctor. Thus, Jordan is not rewarded. That return is effectively confiscated by Kuwait. In this scientific sense, that return represents a

subsidy that has been donated by the poor Jordan to the very affluent Kuwait. And this subsidy is enormously greater than all the official Kuwaiti aid given to Jordan during the past four decades. It is even greater than the remittances of Jordanians who worked in Kuwait.

And there is more to that. In the last few years, there seemed to be a deliberate and well-thought-out Kuwaiti policy based on hiking continuously the rent of houses, which soared therefore to high levels and had the effect of siphoning back to Kuwaiti landlords most of the salaries of Jordanians (and other non-Kuwaiti labour). This practically drained the savings of most Jordanians employed there who consequently ended up as mere servants, not to say slaves, working only for their bare livelihood.

The worst and most dangerous scenario is to let Kuwaiti authorities sack the majority of Jordanians and keep the cream of them. Jordan must not let this happen. That group of highly qualified Jordanians must be the first to be pulled out because the Jordanian economy needs them and because it is too easy to find jobs for them in Jordan or abroad. It is really time for Jordan to stop subsidising the Kuwaiti economy. Labour connections with Kuwait could be resumed in the future when overheated Kuwaiti heads cool down; but then the Jordan-Kuwait economic relations will have to be organised on new and more equitable bases.

## Stakes are high, odds are enormous

IF MONDAY's session of the Lower House of Parliament is anything to go by, then the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri is in for a rough ride. Deputies from both the left and right were critical of the government for amending the extraordinary session's agenda as proposed by the House. It was obvious that the agenda in itself was not the issue. In fact, the House's agenda, as finalised by the government, included a broader spectrum of issues and more important draft laws to debate and enact than the House originally proposed and can actually handle in two months. The problem that Mr. Masri faced then was one of flexing muscles by the various groups and individual deputies in Parliament. Although it is too early to predict, even at this late hour, which way the House will go in its vote of confidence in the government, it nevertheless seems split through the middle on the issue. In Monday's session, when Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat put to vote the proposal to continue the discussion of the agenda issue only his own vote broke the tie over closing the debate.

While government supporters are confident of winning a comfortable majority in the House, some sceptics cast doubts. Almost every deputy insists that his vote depends on the government's programme of action to be presented to the House tomorrow. If in response to this programme or as a result of politicking by deputies the government is denied a vote of confidence, then democracy in the Kingdom will be subjected to its biggest test following the Gulf war. In such an event, either a new prime minister and a new government will have to be appointed or the outcome will lead to the dissolution of this Parliament. The deputies, especially those opposed to the Masri government, have to weigh both options carefully. Whatever their decision, it will have a great impact on our democratisation process, which has to be upheld under all circumstances. If, on the other hand, Parliament chose to grant the government a vote of confidence, then it will guarantee two things: A lease of life for the remainder of its term and a democratic government that would defer to the House on many issues. But whatever the House's choice, Jordan is certainly on the right track; and the people, motivated and propelled by the healthiness of the process so far, will certainly become more active, not only on the political front but on other fronts as well. We only hope that our politicians, in government, in the House and outside will play their hand right and bright. The stakes are high, the odds are enormous and the country can in no way afford to lose sight of the noble objectives that we all have set our eyes on.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Tuesday discusses the first session by the Lower House of Parliament during which the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri came under fire. In our view the current extraordinary session is the most important one since this country tasted democracy, because this session's agenda contains topics and issues that can determine Jordan's future, said the paper. For this reason, we do not wish to see deputies taking the floor in order to find vent for their anger on certain elements of the present government nor to achieve personal interest, but rather to discuss the topics on the agenda considered of paramount importance for continuation of democracy in the Kingdom, the paper noted. This is not an arena for settling accounts between the legislative and executive authorities of the country and it is not an opportunity for either side to take vengeance on the other, but it is rather a chance to enhance democracy and steer the Kingdom away from troubled waters, said the paper. Too many words and lengthy speeches during the first session achieved nothing and the long statements did not contribute one step towards finalising such important laws as those on press and publication and political parties as had been hoped, the paper continued. The paper said it was hoped by Jordanian people that the deputies will shun all forms of rhetoric and get down to official business, tackling the various topics on the agenda. It expressed hope that the deputies will now revert to reason and quiet dialogue in order to do real service to their country.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily voices his bitterness over the situation in the Middle East region in the aftermath of the Gulf war and the aggression on Iraq. Tareq Masarweh says that the Israelis, who planned this war and the Americans and their allies who carried out the plans, had given the Arabs false promises about a solution for the Middle East question and that nothing has been done to help the Palestinians regain their lands and occupied territories. The West had said that the unanimous international decision to deal with Saddam Hussein and end his occupation of Kuwait will be applied on Yitzhak Shamir and his aggression on the Arabs, the writer notes. The Arabs, who allied themselves with the West, can by no means bribe the various armies which massed against Iraq in order to liberate Palestine, neither can the Arabs in general stop Israel's settlements in Arab lands, the writer adds. The result of the war and the empty promises given to the Arabs are quite manifest to all Arabs who watch the Palestinians being oppressed in Kuwait, awaiting another Sabra and Shatila massacre in Lebanon and continue to suffer under Israeli occupation, the writer continues. Furthermore, the Europeans who promised to help solve the problem have now offered Israel European Community membership, and the Americans have pledged to finance the settlement of Soviet and Ethiopian Jews on Arab land, says Mr. Masarweh. He also points out that with the destruction of Iraq's power, the Arabs are not at all stronger, but weaker and more than ever before in total disarray and facing Israel's constant threat to their existence.

## Amnesty International feature

THE site was Chile's National Stadium in Santiago — a place which had been turned into the country's largest detention centre virtually overnight after the 1973 military coup.

Thousands of men and women had been rounded up and held inside — many were tortured, killed or taken away never to be seen again.

That was nearly 20 years ago. In October 1990 the stadium was again packed with thousands of people — but this time 150,000 who had come to support a concert for human rights held by AI, the worldwide human rights movement.

The concert was a breakthrough for AI's Chilean membership which, 10 years ago, consisted of only two members forced to meet on a park bench because no one would rent them an office. But the membership and campaigning work in Chile expanded and became increasingly diverse over the years as AI tackled more human rights issues and spread its membership to some 70 countries.

Today, over one million AI members, subscribers and donors around the world from all political, religious, racial and age groups are committed to stopping human rights abuses wherever they occur, united by the belief that individual women and men can take effective action.

Campaigning for individuals who are jailed, tortured, "disappeared" or sentenced to death is central to AI's work. The organisation works for the release of prisoners of conscience — people detained for peacefully expressing their views — fair trials for political prisoners, opposes the torture of all prisoners and campaigns for the end to the death penalty.

But very often, there is not simply one victim of abuse but hundreds or thousands of them. When individual cases add up to a

human rights crisis in a country, AI highlights that country to generate increased international pressure.

The sheer volume of appeals from this global network is a pressure in itself. The president's office in Colombia is said to have recently received 20,000 letters within a week. An AI delegation of African head of state actually complained to an AI delegation that a deluge of letters would arrive as soon as the authorities detained someone for questioning.

Sometimes, AI's work will result in releases or in better treatment. Two Turkish journalists who were tortured in detention in April 1990 said they were treated somewhat better after an urgent appeal had been launched on their behalf. AI's appeals may not always result directly in a prisoner's release, but governments receiving thousands of letters from around the world know that their actions will not go unnoticed. When one Turkish man with a long history of being detained and tortured was arrested in October 1990 but released the following day, police station officials apparently said, "Oh you're a favourite of Amnesty's, aren't you," as they released him.

AI's work and contact with victims and families can also help overcome their sense of despair and solitude and make them stronger and more determined not to give up.

As part of its campaign work, AI frequently asks for support from doctors, lawyers, trade unionists, and other groups in the community with special interests, skills or influence. There are extensive networks of AI medical and legal groups and a growing number of trade unionists, teachers and journalists who work on behalf of individual prisoners and in general campaigns. These groups may sometimes intervene on behalf of colleagues who are themselves victims of

human rights abuses.

In 1989 two Sudanese doctors were arrested and tried for calling a meeting to discuss a doctors' strike at a hospital. Medical groups began an immediate international campaign to publicise their cases and a day before a delegation of scientific and medical organisations was due to arrive in Sudan, the doctors were released.

AI also organises campaigns or actions about the general human rights situation in a particular country to publicise and combat large-scale human rights violations.

## Today, over one million AI members around the world are committed to stopping human rights abuses

In China the fate of many of the prisoners arrested since the 1989 pro-democracy protests still remains veiled in secrecy. In 1990, as part of a worldwide campaign, AI published the names and details of 700 of the thousands arrested — at that time, the longest list of prisoners in China ever compiled by a human rights organisation.

And last year AI launched a campaign on Brazil which drew worldwide attention. Members lobbied embassies, wrote letters and generated publicity in their own countries which resulted in a pledge by the Brazilian president that "we cannot and will not again be a country cited as violent in reports by Amnesty International."

It is this sort of high profile initiative that makes headlines. But the constant, persistent work of AI members around the world still focuses on bringing pressure to bear on behalf of individual victims.

AI members in Japan wrote thousands of letters to the South African authorities about a prisoner of conscience who had gone on hunger-strike in early 1987.

No one in the prison could read Japanese so the authorities translated thousands of letters only to discover that they all said "release Dean Farisani." The Reverend Tshenweni Simon Farisani was released some months later.

In Norway, children from around the country responded to a children's radio show which featured the case of a nine-year-old Ethiopian boy born in prison who had spent his entire life there with his mother. Children sent drawings, cards and letters to the AI office in Oslo and a huge parcel was forwarded to the

event in the city's main square and over 40,000 signatures were collected.

Human rights emergencies can occur anywhere and at any time and AI has to be prepared to act quickly when it learns that someone is at risk of torture, execution or other human rights violations.

When this happens, an Urgent Action network with about 50,000 members in over 60 countries can be mobilised within 48 hours to write, telex or fax immediate appeals to the authorities. One nightwatchman in Ireland writes to every government or authority listed on every Urgent Action — an average of 2,000 letters a year. In France, a network of common-law prisoners who write from their own prisons has developed.

AI's unique worldwide campaigning also extends to the abolition of the death penalty.

In the United Kingdom, as part of a nationwide campaign in 1990 to stop the reintroduction of the death penalty for certain crimes, members draped a huge banner over a bridge in London which called on people to "Say no to hanging — Phone your Member of Parliament now."

A comprehensive report on the death penalty was published in 1989 as part of an international campaign for abolition. Petitions were organised and AI members in several countries arranged forums where the mother of a murder victim spoke against executions.

Making the public, and not just government, aware of human rights is an important part of AI's work and is carried out by members all around the world.

When AI visited Sierra Leone several years ago, its delegation was stopped at five police roadblocks but managed to recruit two new members from among the officers on the way — all the police who stopped the delegation knew of AI.

That in itself shows a significant amount of public awareness

which could only have been achieved through the work of members in the country.

In India, more than 5,000 people ran a "race of human rights" in December 1990 carrying banners which proclaimed that "torture is inhuman" to raise public awareness of human rights. A group in Madras went from village to village explaining the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and collected 15,000 signatures supporting the Declaration.

In an attempt to raise awareness of human rights issues among the army and police in Israel and Brazil, AI members have given lectures on human rights to new recruits. Dutch members have held similar courses for police, business people and foreign ministry officials.

Sometimes a visual campaign is most effective, especially in countries where the adult literacy rate is low. In India, one group uses street theatre to present human rights issues to rural communities.

The Lahore group in Pakistan also produces plays on human rights themes which tour shanty towns and rural areas. And in Kuwait, AI members organised an exhibition of paintings on the theme of human rights, political repression and free expression.

The strength and success of AI's work is due to its members, who include students, the elderly, tradespeople and professionals.

When governments receive appeals from AI — not just from one country or one group of people but from all around the world — it becomes much harder to dismiss them.

Not every AI campaign or action is going to result in prisoners being freed or detainees being treated better. But at the very least, the organisation's continuing campaigns, appeals and publicity remind governments that whatever human rights violations they attempt will be exposed to the harsh glare of international scrutiny. And, that's what saves lives.

# The G-7 — deciding the fate of others

LONDON (AP) — At their 17th annual economic summit, leaders of the world's seven richest industrial nations will likely focus on Mikhail Gorbachev's plea for aid and the threat of a global recession.

Following are sketches of the G-7 leaders and their priorities for the summit.

## United States

AMERICA's longest peacetime expansion in history ended last July with the onset of the first recession in eight years. The slump has been far less severe than the 1981-82 downturn and there are growing signs it may have ended in either April or May.

However, the recovery in the early stages is expected to be the weakest of any since the end of World War II. In an effort to spur growth, President George Bush is expected to keep up pressure on the allies to cut interest rates.

His administration contends that inflation threats are low at the present time and virtually every problem facing the world economy, from promoting free-market economies in Eastern Europe to rebuilding the war-torn Middle East, can be better handled with cheaper credit.

Mr. Bush, 67, saw his popularity soar during the Gulf war but scores far lower in opinion polls for his handling of the economy. The administration is concerned that sub-par growth will mean little improvement in the nation's unemployment rate and thus provoke voter discontent during Mr. Bush's re-election campaign next year.

## Japan

JAPAN's economy has continued to grow, and is likely to break its post-World War II record of 57 consecutive months of economic expansion in August.

But the economy is slowing down, with growth this fiscal year estimated at 3.8 per cent after fiscal 1990's 5.7 per cent. The Bank of Japan on July 1 reversed its anti-inflation tight credit policy and lowered the discount rate to keep the economy going.

Japan's trade surplus widened for the fifth consecutive month in May, although the surplus with the United States narrowed. Unemployment remains so low that there is an acute labour shortage.

Toshiki Kaifu has a weak power base within the governing Liberal Democratic Party and conventional thinking has always been that he would lose his job in October. But a recent surge of popularity in opinion polls and the death of his most formidable challenger may give him a fighting chance for another term.

Mr. Kaifu is expected to repeat Japan's opposition to major financial aid to the Soviet Union. But he will not want to appear isolated from the other industrialised countries.

Tokyo will seek support for its

policy of, before offering the Soviets substantial help, demanding the return of four small islands occupied by the Soviets after World War II. Officials would like to see the summit communiqué include an appeal to Mr. Gorbachev to extend his "new thinking" to Asia, which would be seen as support for Japan's island claim.

## Germany

GERMANY's economy is in a schizophrenic state. Former West Germany, with 80 per cent of the population, is booming, while the 20 per cent in former East Germany head for mass unemployment requiring huge subsidies to finance social support programmes.

That and the massive investment required to switch the east over to capitalism are straining Germany's fiscal conservatism and fueling fears of inflation, which is running at a 3.5 per cent annual rate. Germany has therefore repeatedly rejected U.S. calls for lower interest rates.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has lost popularity since winning the first all-German parliamentary election last December but his centre-right coalition is holding firm.

Mr. Kohl goes into the summit as probably the strongest of the seven nations in urging Soviet aid.

Germany sets high priority on progress in trade talks, but so far has rejected U.S. pressure for radical change in farm subsidies — the main issue in dispute.

## Britain

BRITAIN is poised for economic

recovery in the second half of this year after suffering a deeper-than-expected recession.

The economy is expected to grow by 2 per cent next year after contracting 2.2 per cent this year, according to the independent National Institute for Economic and Social Research.

The annual inflation rate has fallen to 5.8 per cent from a high of 10.9 per cent in October, making room for interest rate cuts to 11.5 per cent from a peak of 15 per cent. Unemployment is up to 7.9 per cent from 5.6 per cent in April 1990.

Conservative Prime Minister John Major, 48, must call a general election by mid-1992; opinion polls show the opposition Labour Party with a commanding lead.

## France

FRANCE is grappling with several economic problems, although Economics Minister Pierre Bérégovoy denies the widespread perception that there is a recession.

Unemployment is at a record 9.5 per cent and rising, and growth is not expected to be strong enough in the next year or two to help bring it down much.

But experts say France's economy is basically sound — its inflation rate is 3.4 per cent and dropping.

President Francois Mitterrand, midway through his second seven-year term, is not expected to seek a third term. He faces the prospect of evolving increasingly into a lame-duck while others within and without his Socialist Party — jockey to succeed him.

French officials have not expressed a wish list for the summit.

## Italy

THE Italian economy is showing signs of recovery after stagnating as a result of the Gulf crisis. Industrial production has been picking up since April, but annual economic growth for 1991 is only expected at 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent. Inflation continues to be higher than that in France and Germany.

"Italy has always been first in line in asking for concrete aid to help sustain perestroika. ... It is fundamental the West do all it can to help Gorbachev," said Pio Mastroianni, spokesman for Premier Giulio Andreotti.

Italy also will make an appeal for the removal of remaining obstacles to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT trade talks, especially in

regard to agriculture.

## Canada

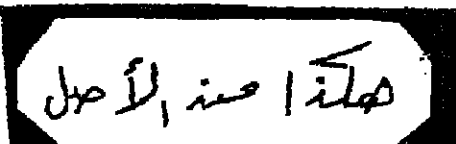
CANADA's economy is in a year-old slump. Although new statistics show the economy grew 0.9 per cent in April after shrinking for four straight quarters, the government stops short of saying the recession is ending. Unemployment remains above 10 per cent, bankruptcies are up and interest rates are high.

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government is negotiating a free-trade agreement with the United States and Mexico in response to the European Community's plan to drop internal trade barriers in 1992. Critics say that Canada has lost 290,000 manufacturing jobs, but economists say other factors were to blame.

Mr. Mulroney's standing at home is at an all-time low. Despite his economic troubles, Mr. Mulroney says he plans to use the summit to promote an arms control initiative. He has been working with Germany's Mr. Kohl on a plan to track conventional arms sales to uncover countries building up of arsenals.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171





## King holds talks with U.N. envoy

(Continued from page 1)

Syria has insisted that negotiations be conducted under U.N. auspices. Israel has resisted any role for the United Nations, considering it is biased against the Jewish state.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has made four trips to the Middle East since the Gulf war to try to get peace talks going. So far there is no consensus on terms for a conference.

Mr. Brummer said he hoped Mr. Baker's efforts would succeed and stressed that his visit "was not aimed at disrupting this process."

"I am in favour of everything that goes in the direction of peace and negotiations because you cannot get peace without negotiating and without having face-to-face talks with people who have different opinions," he added.

"The problem now is the question of how this face-to-face is going to be organised and who is going to participate in it."

"Some of the obstacles now are the obstacles of the participation of the Palestinian delegation and how it will be composed, on

which Israel has some ideas," he said. Some other obstacle is precisely the U.N. participation in such a conference, which they refuse.

Answering a question, he said: "I think Jordan is one of the main countries in the region and had a very important role to play and I am sure the authorities are ready to play this role and until now it has been a constructive role."

In Paris, World Jewish Congress (WJC) head Edgar Bronfman suggested Tuesday that Israel might drop its opposition to a United Nations role in Middle East peace talks if the U.N. rescinded its "Zionism equals racism" resolution.

French officials said Mr. Bronfman told Prime Minister Edith Cresson the rescinding of the U.N. resolution passed in 1975 "would provoke a major shock in Israel which could allow it to make an important step towards peace in the Middle East."

"The removal of the resolution could indeed persuade Israel to change its mind about the acceptability of the U.N. in Middle East efforts," WJC spokesman Ilan Steinberg said.

## Family planning and Gulf war

By Hamouda Hanafi

POPULATION, health and family planning programmes in the Arab region look as if they may be among the casualties resulting from the Gulf war. The work of non-governmental organisations such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) family planning associations, which operate in 14 Arab countries, is likely to become even more difficult.

Arab governments, with a few exceptions, were already hesitant about supporting family planning programmes openly, very few had allocated resources directly to family planning efforts. These governments are now likely to find more reasons than not to invest in national security build-ups at the expense of other needs, allowing fewer resources for health, education and social services.

The scarcity of resources for family planning is also likely to worsen in some countries as priority is given to emergency care and curative services. The level of health, nutrition and education for countless numbers of families and children could be disastrous, not only in Iraq but also in Jordan which has seen its refugee population explode. In other countries, hundreds of thousands of workers are now jobless as a result of fleeing or being expelled from Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other states. Their status is no better than that of the refugees and the homeless.

The trauma of war will not be easily forgotten for the many children, parents and relatives of war victims and the impact on people's attitudes will be profound. For some countries, in particular, there will be a call for "replacing the dead", while for many others there is a likelihood of a return to the concept of safety in numbers. For the last 20 years family planning advocates in the Arab World have been faced with a host of opposition arguments. Only a few months ago it was hoped these were about to become bad memories, but they are now in danger of resurfacing.

There has always been a degree of paranoia in the Arab World about family planning being an "imperialist plot". The pro-natalist policy of the state of Israel, the massive influx of emigrants and the new settlements in the occupied territories and Jerusalem do not reassure most neighbouring countries about the wisdom of reducing their rate of population growth. Iraq's and Kuwait's recent experiences and the prevailing winds of fundamentalism everywhere may make family planning more subject to attack as an anti-Islamic and anti-national act. Mothers may be pressured into a role of intensive reproduction and rearing, a role already demanded by the Islamic fundamentalists.

Public opinion in the Arab World has always been easy to mobilise against the West because of the trauma of colonisation and the Arab-Israel conflict. Now countries like Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, with governments up to now committed to population planning, are likely to maintain a low-key approach.

Religious fanaticism and the exploitation of religion by religious leaders may endanger what few individual rights women have acquired, particularly their right to choose whether or not to have children and the right to education, employment and holding public office.

International assistance to the Arab World will probably increase but its distribution may be dictated by the current position that each Arab country has taken in this war. Thus, as the wealthy Gulf nations have already expressed it, other wealthy donors are likely to punish the poorest Arab nations for their "rebellion". Assistance to the region, particularly bilateral, may become even more conditioned by donor interest and political aims.

The Arab World has always had its divisions and it will still have them after the Gulf war. However, the conflict has heightened the fears for security and the feelings of mistrust among nations and governments. One should look at what might happen to the Arab League and whether there will be a single Arab venue that all Arabs could use without problems. The Gulf war has left no Arab country on the neutral side. The regional activities of IPPF and other bodies are bound to suffer from this and fewer exchanges and regional-based activities will be the result.

If there is any silver lining to this cloud, it may be in a better understanding of the futility of war. The conflict may also have brought into sharper focus the real problems of maldistribution of wealth, misuse of natural resources, displacement of people and fragility of economies based on disorganised exported/imported labour. It may also highlight the whole question of refugees and human rights, including the fate of minorities and expatriates be they Palestinians in Kuwait, Kurds in western Asia or the thousands of labourers from Asia and Africa who joined the ranks of the refugees when Kuwait was invaded.

This may convince most of the countries involved of the importance of a comprehensive look at population in the region and the need for a co-ordinated policy among Arab countries to govern migration and population movements in a way that assists the economies of both receivers and exporters of populations and safeguards the rights and welfare of the people.

The knowledge that the rest of the world has acquired about the Arab World and the individuality of each country was certainly an education for many.

Dr. Hanafi is Regional Director of IPPF's Arab World Regional Bureau. The article is reprinted from IPPF People magazine.

## The dead wed in Iran

By Nasim Khaksar

Part I

NIGHTMARE is the only word I can find to describe what has happened in Iran. Events are so horrible, so incredible, they could only take place in a terror-ridden dream: a chaotic and bewildering nightmare that reveals itself in varied but repeating images. A shadowed dream with apparitions, occasionally salient, seemingly carved of stone and fitted in the heart of the dream. So remote is the dream it seems to be that of one of the archaic images inside the Fars mountains, a relic from the distant past of Persian history. Or perhaps it is dreamed by the Sphinx of the Egyptians. It is difficult to grasp a beginning or an end of such a dream; it resembles a creature circling on itself to bite its own tail.

A traveller from Iran once told me about a wedding ceremony that occupied my mind for a long time. Two families who each had a child, one a son, the other a daughter, convicted for political activities and executed by the Islamic Republic, decided to hold a wedding ceremony for their dead. According to tradition, the groom's family first visited the bride's family and made a proposal. When the girl's family accepted it, the ceremony was held. Friends and acquaintances were invited to the wedding. All the guests knew ahead of time that the bride and groom were dead, yet they took sweets and bouquets of flowers to the wedding. The ceremony did not differ from the usual one: everyone sang, rejoiced and maybe even danced at it.

In my imagination, this event has taken on the form of a theatrical performance, a drama for framing death or silence with actors who seem to have practised their roles for years. Remembering the bouquets of flowers, plates of sweets and the echo of music or a melancholy song which had suddenly intruded on the silence, I wonder whether I should begin writing about the nightmare here. It is a strenuous task; the ominous dream has gripped me and the creature that revolves round itself is displaying yet another face.

On October 7, 1988, the Turkish magazine *Ikinci Döğru* (Towards 2000), reported the following item: "The Turkish government will turn in 58 Iranian refugees to the border officials of the Islamic Republic." Following this extradition, the detainees were immediately executed by a firing squad of "Revolutionary Guards." The extradition permit was signed by two authorities: the lieutenant governor of the city of Ozaheh who was in charge of border patrol station 120/2, and the security service in the city of Van.

The report indicated that a mother whose son was among this group, waiting on the Turkish side of the border, witnessed the execution. After learning about their arrest and fearing their extradition, she had followed the vehicle taking the captives back to the border.

In my mind, the nightmare has now turned into a mother sitting on or behind a hill counting the echoes of the bullets. One. Two. Three. Which bullet has pierced the forehead, or the heart of her child? The report does not mention if she was alone at the time

or not. Perhaps after an absolute silence had overcome the mountainsides and the hills, the mother rose — melancholy and crushed — and gazed at Iran. Did she, like Andre Malraux, remember the ceramic tiled gate of Tehran that, like the gate of Saint-Denis in Paris, is now lost in the heart of the metropolis? Or did she recall the alleys in each corner of which a bridal-chamber is erected? I do not know. I convince myself it may be possible to pursue the nightmare or the reality as she has imagined it, and arrive at the vanity of human life and the sacrifice of human values by states that proclaim themselves representatives of God on earth. Human life. How dare I use such a strange phrase! Did I speak of regard for human life? Would, then, the dead be exempt from disregard?

In the summer of 1981, the government of the Islamic Republic, in its frenzy to eliminate the opposition, inaugurated a new cemetery for executed poli-

sum of all inflicted on mankind by governments finds its incarnation in Iran. It becomes problematic to place oneself in any specific historical epoch.

During the years of imprisonment under the Shah, I was once the cellmate of a young *talabeh* (theology student). The torture of political prisoners had reached horrible dimensions. One day, when the sound of whip strokes did not cease a moment, my cellmate, after pacing the cell for a long time, sat down beside me, pale and scared. A thought had popped into his head that he was afraid to articulate. I asked what the interrogators could think of getting a team of carpenters and blacksmiths to divide the cells into narrow drawers, place one prisoner in each, lock it up and only once a day pull the drawer out to let us eat something and use the bathroom.

During the month that we were cellmates, every once in a while

only medium height, a chubby man in his mid- or late-20s. His looks betrayed neither pride nor shame, wickedness nor mercy. With his expressionless face, a non-human face, and posing as though he were presenting the corpse of a sheep to the market, he was turning the body with his stick, repeating in a coarse, indifferent voice, "Look well. It is real..."

One day in prison, my cellmate, the *talabeh*, mimicked a sermon. He began by pointing to the blank walls. At one end of the imaginary scene were the apostles with their radiant countenances; at the other, the villains and the wretched who were submerged in boiling pots from their waists down. A portrait of their doomed fate as God had it in mind. Now, thinking about this report, it seems to me there is no difference between the reality and the performance: they are the same. Perhaps such sermons that we as children used to attend were themselves displaying our own lives to us. Or maybe the preachers were in fact grinning at us and we didn't know. Or perhaps they were ancient, archaic nightmares.

Under the rule of the Islamic Republic, the captive mothers are accompanied by their small children, an example of the government's sensitivity toward the mothers. What word or image can articulate the experiences and lives of the infants and children who are presently staying in Evin, Gohardasht and numerous other prisons? How can one penetrate the daydreams of children who spend months in dark, narrow prison cells, surrounded by wounded and blindfolded prisoners against the blood stained walls? What goes on in the minds of these children, children who instead of learning nursery rhymes and the alphabet at school are observing hatred and a terrible portrait of humanity?

One pregnant woman anticipated the birth of her child and her own death all the while she was pregnant. She was sentenced to death by the firing squad after the child was born. Those nine months, when her body and bones were blossoming for birth, were filled with the sound of lashing, screams and the echoes of drums announcing death. What nourishment was the foetus inside her wasting body subsisting on?

In the writings of a political prisoner we read that a five-year-old boy was brought into an interrogation room. The blindfolds were one by one removed from the face of the prisoners and the child was asked if he recognised them. He, in turn, uttered only one sentence: "Daddy told me not to say."

How has this permeated the child's life? The world should rise and walk beside him in the corridors of Evin in order to interpret his understanding of the words. No one can doubt for a second that the five-year-old boy knew that had he said anything else, the captive men would have been doomed to a grave fate. Worse, his response indicates that he is aware that his recognition of these prisoners reveals his parents' connection with them. And he is conscious of what his parents would suffer: torture and possible execution.

Nasim Khaksar is an Iranian writer living in Holland. The article is reprinted from *Index on Censorship*, a London-based media watchdog.

## Intifada enters 43rd month

(Continued from page 1)

mand said.

### Prison rations cut

Israel has slashed the rations of Palestinian prisoners and the cuts contributed to widespread unrest by inmates, a member of parliament said Tuesday.

Maim Oron said he learned last month from Defence Minister Moshe Arens that Mr. Arens had cut food for prisoners by 11.6 per cent as an austerity measure.

The food cuts were one of the grievances cited by 240 Palestinian prisoners who went on hunger strike for 16 days at Nafsa jail in Israel. The strike, joined for shorter periods by hundreds of prisoners in other jails, ended late Monday.

In a letter to the left-wing parliamentarian on June 16, Mr. Arens said, "Beginning on April 21 there was an 11.6 per cent cut in the schedule of food for secur-

ity prisoners.

"The cut was part of an army savings policy..."

The army said it did not know if the old ration had been restored and it was unclear if the cuts applied to some 4,000 Palestinians transferred to Israel's prison authority, as well as to some 5,000 in army custody for nationalist activities.

But Ali Ghuzlan, a Palestinian lawyer involved in the negotiations over the hunger strike in Nafsa, said: "We got concessions on food, newspapers and cleaning materials — washing machines and soap."

"Now the prisoners will have open windows to get light and air, they will have 15 extra minutes with their families and they will be allowed to smoke when they are with their families."

A total of 9,323 Palestinians were in jail as of June 24 in connection with the intifada, the army said.

## Iraq says nuclear plans peaceful

(Continued from page 1)

He said Iraq feared exaggeration of its nuclear programme by the United States, adding: "Such exaggeration led the U.S. president to state in November 1990 that Iraq would manufacture a nuclear device within two months."

Therefore the U.S. president was obliged to wage a war as soon as possible in order to destroy the Iraqi nuclear capabilities before it could manufacture such a weapon," Mr. Hussein wrote.

"In our view, that pretext was enough to make the decision to destroy the equipment and material," he did not specify what was destroyed.

The United States, which led a coalition that evicted Iraq from Kuwait after a seven-month occupation that began Aug. 2, accuses Iraq of trying to conceal a nuclear arms programme.

Officials of the U.N. special commission set up to oversee destruction of Iraq's nonconventional weapons declined to say

whether the information supplied by Iraq clearly showed it was trying to develop a bomb.

Robert L. Gallucci, the commission's deputy chairman, said Monday only that Iraq admitted uranium enrichment programmes and that enriched uranium could be used with other components to manufacture a nuclear weapon.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) may have to send more experts to Iraq to examine newly disclosed nuclear facilities which the U.S. claims prove Baghdad was trying to make a nuclear bomb, officials said in Vienna.

Officials at the Vienna-based IAEA said it would probably have to send experts familiar with one of three programmes for enriching uranium revealed by Iraq.

This system, in which uranium is enriched to the point where it can be used in a nuclear weapon through the use of electromagnets, was last used by the United States to make the Hiroshima bomb in 1945.

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# Financial Markets

**U.S. Dollar in International Markets**

Currency	New York Close Date: 8/7/1991	Tokyo Close Date: 9/7/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6347	1.6263
Deutsche Mark	1.8067	1.8137
Swiss Franc	1.5585	1.5656
French Franc	6.1300	6.1493 **
Japanese Yen	138.58	138.60
European Currency Unit	1.1365	1.1442 **

Unit: Per 100  
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

**Intercontinental Interest Rates** Date: 9/7/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	6.00	6.12	6.37	6.87
Sterling Pound	11.06	10.87	10.62	10.62
Deutsche Mark	8.81	9.12	9.31	9.31
Swiss Franc	7.68	7.75	7.75	7.62
French Franc	9.56	9.62	9.62	9.62
Japanese Yen	7.37	7.50	7.37	7.31
European Currency Unit	9.75	10.00	10.00	10.00

Interest rate for deposits exceeding 1.5 million J.O.D. or equivalent

**Precious Metals** Date: 9/7/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	368.75	7.15	Silver	4.63	.10

24 Karat

**Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin** Date: 9/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.688	.690
Sterling Pound	1.1187	1.1243
Deutsche Mark	.3789	.3808
Swiss Franc	.4390	.4412
French Franc	.1116	.1122
Japanese Yen	.4953	.4978
Dutch Guilder	.3365	.3382
Swedish Krona	.1047	.1052
Italian Lira	.0508	.0511
Belgian Franc	.01842	.01851

**Other Currencies** Date: 9/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8350
Lebanese Lira	.0750	.0775
Saudi Riyal	.1830	.1839
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1873
Egyptian Pound	.1850	.2000
Omani Riyal	1.7800	1.7900
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1873
Greek Drachma	.3300	.3500
Cypriot Pound	1.3800	1.4100

**CAE Indices for Amman Financial Market**

Index	7/7/1991 Close	8/7/1991 Close
All-Share	112.34	111.98
Banking Sector	107.06	106.70
Insurance Sector	122.39	120.48
Industry Sector	117.68	117.78
Services Sector	127.63	127.38

December 31, 1990 = 100

## Citicorp may cut up to 10,000 jobs

NEW YORK (R) — Citicorp, the largest American banking company, may cut up to 10,000 more jobs on top of the 7,000 jobs slashed in the last six months, Chairman John Reed has told a recent meeting.

Some of the cuts could be offset by some hiring, however, and there is no figure available for the net job cuts, a Citicorp spokesman said.

Citicorp, troubled by problem consumer and commercial loans, has launched a programme to slash expenses. It already cut 7,000 jobs in the last six months, also offset by some hiring, a spokesman said.

The bank had 95,000 employees at the end of 1990.

"This is part of the programme announced in December to get out \$1.5 billion in costs by 1993," the spokesman said. She said Citicorp's job cuts will be across all businesses worldwide.

## Paper reports record number of foreign tourists to Beijing

BEIJING (R) — Record numbers of tourists are flocking to Beijing this year, and spending more money than ever, after being frightened away by tanks and guns that crushed democracy protests in the Chinese capital two years ago.

The Beijing Ribao newspaper has said that 320,000 foreign visitors arrived in the city in the first four months of 1991, a 17.3 per cent increase over the same period last year and a two per cent rise on the January-April figure for 1988, the previous record year for tourism.

In April alone, 108,000 foreign tourists arrived in Beijing, an 11.5 per cent rise over 1988.

The figure for tourist spending in the first four months was \$2.15 billion, a rise of 23.6 per cent. In April alone tourists spent \$670 million, up 17.5 per cent over 1988, the newspaper said, quoting city tourism authorities.

The figures, however, do not indicate China's tourism industry has recovered from the crisis sparked by the brutal crushing of the student-led protests in June 1989.

Tourist arrivals would have to jump dramatically to fill new hotels that have shot up all over Beijing and other major cities since 1988.

## OECD predicts 2 years of slow German growth

FRANKFURT (R) — German economic growth will slow to around 2.5 per cent next year as expansion slows in the west and output stabilises in the east, the OECD has said.

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its half-yearly report gross national product (GNP) in western Germany would rise 2.8 per cent this year and 2.2 per cent next year, after a rise of 4.6 per cent in 1990.

The fall in east German GNP would remain stable from 1990 levels at 15 to 20 per cent in 1991, the OECD said.

Upward movement in the eastern German economy could not be expected before early 1992. But it gave no forecast for eastern German GNP growth in 1992.

Wages in the region continued to rise too fast and chances of a turnaround in the east's industrial sector appeared remote.

"It is disappointing that eastern German wages are increasing at a very rapid pace," the OECD said.

The report of the 24-nation organisation said a rise in unit labour costs, the introduction of higher indirect taxes in July, an increase in import prices, and tight industrial capacity limits would push up inflation this year.

The OECD expected west German consumer prices to rise 3.3 per cent in the whole of 1991, with a further acceleration to 4.0 per cent seen in 1992. Prices rose 2.5 per cent in 1990.

Figures released recently show June's cost of living in western Germany was 3.5 per cent above June 1990 levels.

The OECD expected no further deterioration in the German balance of payments despite continued strong growth in imports.

Warning about east German wage developments, the OECD said preliminary estimates show that between July 1, 1990, when German economic, monetary, and social union began, and the end of last year until labour cost in eastern Germany rose between 40 and 50 per cent.

## Soviets approve bankruptcy law

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet legislators gave overwhelming approval Monday to the country's first bankruptcy law, and the official News Agency TASS said 13 per cent of now subsidized state-run companies could be out of business within a year.

The law, which was given preliminary approval by the Supreme Soviet, put budding capitalists on notice that debt and bankruptcy, as well as profits and growth, will figure in the market economy they are trying to build.

"Those who enter a market should be fully responsible for themselves and should not hide behind the state's back," Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shcherbakov told legislators.

The projected bankruptcies would reduce national industrial output by three per cent to five per cent next year, TASS reported. Industrial production already has plummeted in the last year because of cuts in government subsidies.

"It's better to lose five per cent of production and make sure everybody understands that the jokes are over and the market is starting," TASS quoted Mr. Shcherbakov as saying.

Lawmakers voted 343-5 for the measure. They sent it back to a committee under a traditional legislative procedure, but the top-voted vote indicated the measure was likely to pass with most provisions intact.



## Kuwait to resume bond issues shortly

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, looking for ways to stir investor interest after the Gulf war, will soon resume issuing treasury bills and other debt instruments, the governor of the central bank said.

Governor Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, also said that high-yield debt paper issued before last August's Iraqi invasion was available for immediate purchase.

"The central bank will shortly resume issuing public debt instruments," Sheikh Salem was quoted as saying in Tuesday's edition of the Al-Sayassah newspaper. He gave no date or financial details.

Before the seven-month occupation, Kuwait had an active market in short and medium-term treasury bills, established to cover a budget deficit, create an outlet for private savings and reduce the emirate's reliance on overseas investment income.

Following the war, these problems have become more acute. The productive economy, especially the oil industry, is in tatters because of damage wrought by the occupation and many Kuwaitis are staying out of the country rather than helping to rebuild it.

The government faces a huge cash-flow problem in meeting the cost of reconstruction while waiting for the resumption of oil exports, brought to a halt because of hundreds of well-head fires. Oil exports are expected to start again by the end of the year.

Economists have been widely expecting new bond issues as one way out of the crisis. Other options include the sale of some of Kuwait's estimated \$120 billion worth of overseas investments and borrowing on international capital markets.

## Fortune survey shows profits down 17 per cent in world's top companies

NEW YORK (R) — 1990 will not be fondly recalled in the annals of global business.

Profits at the world's 500 biggest corporations tumbled 17 per cent, carmakers saw earnings drop 57 per cent, and six companies lost \$1 billion or more in 1990, according to a survey released Monday by Fortune magazine.

In all, 34 of the world's biggest companies posted losses last year, up from 27 in 1989.

The global 500 survey appears in the July 29 issue.

General Motors Corp still ranked first in global sales of \$125.1 billion, even though it lost \$2 billion.

It was followed up by the Anglo-Dutch oil company, Royal Dutch/Shell Group, which passed up Ford Motor Co. and Exxon Corp to win the second spot, with

sales of \$107.2 billion.

Exxon ranked third in sales in 1990 at \$105.9 billion — one of six U.S. companies in the top 10. Ford was fourth biggest in sales with \$98.3 billion and International Business Machines (IBM) Corp took the fifth spot with \$69 billion in sales.

The United States topped the list with the largest number of companies in the survey at 164. The runner-up was Japan with 111, while Britain had 43. France and Germany each had 30 spots.

Not all was grim on the profit score. Some companies posted healthy earnings gains despite the recession in a number of countries, including the United States.

Profits of Soap and Cosmetics companies rose 23 per cent, while sales gained seven per cent. Beverage sales rose five per cent while profits jumped 24 per

cent. Computer companies had a mixed year — sales rose 1.4 per cent while profits increased 19 per cent.

Fortune's editors pointed out that fears of Japanese computer dominance have been overblown. Two-thirds of all computer companies in the global 500 are American, while IBM is five times as big as the world's second biggest computer firm, Fujitsu Corp of Japan. Indeed, IBM is bigger than Fujitsu and the next four computer companies combined.

Despite the downfall of communism in eastern Europe, the region still has far to go before capitalism triumphs. In the first year that Fortune searched the east for candidates in the global 500, it said not a single company qualified.

## UAE scales down 1991 spending

DUBAI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) cabinet has decided to scale down proposed spending in 1991 by some 17 per cent to 16.4 billion dirhams (\$4.47 billion), according to figures published by the official news agency WAM.

Spending for the calendar year will, however, remain five per cent higher than the 1990 budget of 15.6 billion dirhams (\$4.25 billion).

WAM did not say why the cabinet opted for a lower figure than the 19.7 billion dirhams (\$5.37 billion) originally proposed.

The UAE boosted oil output by more than 60 per cent since September to help compensate for lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti crudes during the Gulf crisis.

Approval of the annual federal budget is consistently late as the seven emirates which make up the UAE federation take time discussing it.

Theoretically, each of the seven emirates should contribute half of its revenues to the federal budget but the two richest emirates, Abu Dhabi and Dubai normally pay in the vast bulk of the money.

The poorer emirates of Sharjah, and non-oil producing Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah, Ajman, and Umm Al Quwain rely more on federal spending to develop their infrastructure than do Abu Dhabi and Dubai, large oil producers that have their own local spending plans.

Until the annual budget is approved, federal spending is usually dependent on monthly disbursements based on the previous year's approved budget. This has often led to timing problems for projects.

## Survey says most U.S. cities fighting serious budget gaps

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than one in four U.S. cities face severe budget gaps because of a recession and the spiralling costs of health insurance and other programmes, a survey has said.

The annual survey by the National League of Cities found that 60.9 per cent of cities said they expected expenditures to exceed revenues this year. In 1990, just 45.5 per cent of cities anticipated deficits.

And 26.5 per cent of the communities said they expected revenues to lag at least five per cent behind spending, an imbalance considered severe by the League. In the previous seven years of the survey, no more than 12 per cent of the cities faced a deficit that large.

The report said it is "highly unlikely" that any other cities will emulate the drastic step of Bridgeport, Connecticut, which recently declared bankruptcy.

But League officials said that with more and more communities under serious budgetary strain, the cutbacks in federal and state aid to cities that marked the 1980s must be reversed.

"We no longer can take ... the benign neglect or the position that has been prevalent on our federal level, particularly that cities can stand on their own feet, let them solve their own problems," said New Orleans Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, president of the League.

"After all, we did not take that position ... as it relates to a 'new world order,'" Mr. Barthelemy continued.

The survey was conducted in April and May and was based on responses from 525 cities. The League represents more than 1,400 cities.

The report said 71.5 per cent of cities reported that they were less able to meet their budget needs this year than last.

Unlike the federal government, most cities are required to balance their budgets by the end of their fiscal years.

The report found that 84.6 per cent of cities raised taxes or fees or imposed new ones in the past year to help balance their budgets.

That solution was embraced most often in the recession-wracked northeast, where taxes or fees were raised in 97.9 per cent of cities responding. In the west, where many laws limit tax increases, 75 per cent of municipalities raised taxes or fees — the lowest percentage of any region.

Many city governments also saved money by reining in their own work forces. The survey found that 36.2 per cent of cities froze hiring and 29.3 per cent reduced the number of their workers.

When asked what was responsible for their budget problems, 87.2 per cent of the cities said the soaring costs of health benefits, the largest response.

Just behind were the recession, mentioned by 69.5 per cent, and increasing expenses of solid-waste disposal, listed by 66.3 per cent of the cities.

Meanwhile, thousands of state workers in Connecticut and Maine reported back to their jobs Monday, for the first time in a week, but budget impasses continued in those states and in Pennsylvania.

"I'm a widow. It's hard," said Bernice Spagnolo, who joined 75 other Pennsylvania state employees at a rally at the Capitol demanding an end to the week-long deadlock. She hoisted a homemade sign that asked, "who is going to pay my bills?"

In Maine, Governor John McKernan signed a \$3.2 billion budget Monday, sending 10,000 state employees back to work and ending the partial government shutdown that began July 1.

But state employees still faced uncertainty because the Republican governor made a deal with Democratic lawmakers that the new budget will be cancelled Wednesday if the legislature fails to cut workers' compensation.

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Stocks closed higher for the first time in six days during a turbulent day's trading. After falling to a 1991 trading low in late morning, the 225-share Nikkei average closed up 432.79 points (1.95 pct) at 22,608.96.

SYDNEY — Local institutional and European buying sparked sharp rises as Sydney shadowed Tokyo up. The September Share Price Index ended 13.1 points up at 1538.8.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong shares slid up and down following Tokyo, falling sharply in the morning then rising throughout the afternoon to end stronger. The blue chip Hang Seng Index ended 23.46 points at 3,904.19.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed off the day's highs after moderate trading. The market moved with Tokyo, falling at first then rising after mid-morning. The key Straits Times Industrial Index closed 10.25 points up on the day at 1,463.92.

BOMBAY — Shares finished mixed after a bullish start triggered widespread profit-taking. The BSE Index hit a peak of 1,385.27 points before ending at 1,363.99, up 6.67.

FRANKFURT — German shares flurried at the end of the day to close at day highs but dealers said demand was not particularly heavy for blue-chip stocks. The 30-day DAX Index ended 22.59 points (1.41 pct) higher at 1,627.23.

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## NATO plans major reshuffle of cold war military hardware

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO is planning to give poorer allies in the Mediterranean region hundreds of tanks and other pieces of military hardware no longer needed to face the threat of a Warsaw Pact attack in Central Europe.

NATO sources said the plan, part of a reshuffle of alliance forces following the signing of a landmark European arms treaty last year, would significantly upgrade the defences of countries like Greece and Turkey.

The equipment, totalling more than 2,500 tanks, 1,000 armoured vehicles and 175 artillery pieces, will be largely donated by the United States and Germany. Norway and Denmark, both with small armed forces, will also receive extra equipment.

"This represents a commitment to strengthen principally the southern region. It takes into account the fact that the areas of risk for the west have changed," said one NATO diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

The 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) has already said it intends to strengthen weak defences in the Mediterranean area, particularly in the wake of the Gulf war.

Several allies sent warplanes, air defence missiles and other equipment to Turkey during the crisis allegedly to deter any possible attack from neighbouring Iraq.

Final details of the arms transfers proposals have yet to be worked out in bilateral deals between the countries concerned and there could still be changes. But NATO military planners have finished the outline of the deal, alliance sources said.

The plans were developed because NATO has to destroy equipment under the terms of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, covering an area from the Atlantic to the Urals.

In order to save its best equipment, NATO decided to reshuffle hardware among countries so that only the oldest will have to be destroyed.

Modern armies like those of the United States and Germany would transfer items to poorer allies, who will then destroy their oldest equipment — some of which dates from just after World War II.

The plan, known as "cascading," had been held up because of a row with Moscow over implementing the arms treaty. That

dispute was resolved last month. "All allies will respect the limits set in the CFE treaty, no one is going to end up with far more," said another NATO source. "What some countries will get is an improvement."

NATO sources said the alliance was trying to limit the total cost of weapons destruction under the treaty and of the arms transfers to \$100 million. This money would come out of NATO's common infrastructure funds.

Under the proposals so far, Turkey looks set to be the biggest beneficiary. It will receive more than 1,000 tanks from the United States and Germany.

They will not be the latest models, but still represent a major improvement. Although Turkey has NATO's biggest armed forces after the United States, its equipment is outdated.

Ankara is also expected to receive some 600 U.S. and German armoured personnel carriers and 70 M-110 self-propelled artillery pieces from the United States.

In working out the list of transfers, NATO officials were careful to maintain a balance between Greece and Turkey, who are traditional enemies.

Greece is likely to get 700 tanks from the United States, Germany and the Netherlands and 150 armoured personnel carriers and 70 self-propelled artillery pieces from the United States.

Spain is expected to get 530 tanks and 100 armoured vehicles from the United States, Norway, which shares an arctic border with the Soviet Union, will get 90 Leopard tanks — probably from Germany and the Netherlands — and more than 200 armoured personnel carriers from the United States and the Netherlands.

Denmark will get more than 100 Leopard tanks from Germany and more than 30 artillery pieces from U.S. forces in Europe. Portugal may also get some armoured personnel carriers.

The United States, which has the best-equipped armed forces of any NATO member, is by far the biggest donor. Washington is expected to withdraw many of the 320,000-strong U.S. forces stationed in Europe over the next few years.

Germany, on the frontline of the cold war, also has well-equipped units and pledged to cut its forces as part of negotiations on unification last year.

## Seoul welcomes North's U.N. application

SEOUL (R) — South Korea welcomed Tuesday North Korea's formal application to join the United Nations and said it hoped its rival would become a responsible member of the world community.

"I was told that the North had submitted their application and we welcome their decision to apply," Foreign Minister Lee Sang-Ok told reporters.

North Korea submitted its application to the U.N. Monday, Lee said. South Korea is expected to apply in late July or early August.

"We hope North Korea will now sincerely carry out duties of the U.N. and become a responsible member of an international society," he said.

"We believe that North Korea's application would be processed after receiving our application, and both be processed at the same time," Mr. Lee said.

North Korea said in May it would apply for a separate U.N. seat, ending decades of insistence that both Koreas share one seat, a proposal scorned by South Korea as unrealistic and unworkable.

## Bush expected to lift S. Africa sanctions

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush is expected to lift economic sanctions against South Africa this week now that Pretoria is releasing political prisoners, the Washington Post reported Tuesday.

Unidentified administration sources told the newspaper it was unclear whether Mr. Bush would authorise a permanent lifting or a temporary suspension of economic sanctions while more political prisoners were released.

Mr. Bush said in June the release of the prisoners was the last of five conditions Pretoria needed to meet before sanctions were removed.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has completed a review on the political prisoners and reported to Mr. Bush that they were being released, the paper said.

The government of President F.W. de Klerk and the African National Congress (ANC) have disagreed over whether those remaining in detention are political prisoners or common criminals.

The government says most political prisoners have been released while the ANC maintains that nearly 1,000 political prisoners are still held.

A U.S. official told the newspaper the administration generally sided with Mr. de Klerk's definition of a political prisoner.

The ANC ended a national conference in Durban Sunday divided over whether the sanctions should be lifted now that they had served their purpose in isolating Pretoria and forcing an end to apartheid.

U.S. administration officials have said Mr. Bush would like to end the economic embargo by mid-July if the conditions spelled out in a 1986 law were met.

The U.S. Congress in 1986 enacted legislation that outlawed U.S. investment and a broad range of trade with South Africa until a series of conditions were met that would mean the state's system of racial segregation had ended.

South Africa, long accused by anti-apartheid activists of having

a nuclear weapons programme, signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Monday, allowing inspection of all its facilities.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha signed the accession to the treaty at a ceremony attended by visiting British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who said he was delighted.

"This step South Africa has taken marks a big advance in the history of this particular treaty," Mr. Hurd told reporters.

Mr. Botha announced last month that South Africa intended to reverse years of opposition and sign the treaty.

He said then that South Africa had the ability to make a nuclear weapon but declined to confirm or deny if it had ever done so. It had never tested one, he said.

Anti-apartheid activists have alleged that South Africa and Israel have cooperated on nuclear research and that South Africa has had a nuclear weapons programme since the mid-1970s.

Suspicion that it might have tested a bomb dates back to 1979, when a U.S. satellite picked up a double flash characteristic of a nuclear explosion off the South African coast.

In Cape Town, community leader and ANC activist was killed by masked gunmen Monday, apparently a victim of a war between rival groups of taxi drivers.

Michael Mapongwana, chairman of the left-wing Western Cape Civic Association, was the second local leader of the ANC to be assassinated in Cape Town in a month.

Friends said he had played a leading role in attempts to end a brutal war between rival associations operating the minibus taxis that are the main form of transport for urban blacks in South Africa.

His wife, Nomsa, was killed last October in one of four previous attempts on his life. The latest of those was last Saturday, when he survived an attack with automatic weapons and a fire bomb.

## Column 8

### Film festival opens in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Moscow's 17th international film festival opened with a U.S. film in the competition, despite a boycott by the Motion Picture Association of America. More than 2,500 Muscovites and foreign film buffs converged on the Russia Entertainment Centre to attend the opening ceremonies, the Soviet news agency, TASS, said.

Twenty-one films from 20 countries were submitted in the competition, the news agency said. Despite the boycott, the American film *The Doors*, directed by Oliver Stone, was shown along with the Soviet film *Sons of Bitches*, directed by Leonid Filatov. Another U.S. film, *Class Action*, directed by Michael Apted, also was in the competition.

The U.S. embargo was imposed on June 4 by Jack Valenti, president of the American association. The action was taken because of repeated Soviet film piracy — showing American films at theatres, on television and at privately-run video salons, where they are very popular. The U.S. film industry has accused the Soviet government of tacitly condoning and even making a profit from the illegal viewings.

The festival is the last opportunity for Soviets to watch American films legally. According to festival organisers, the U.S. films will be shown as part of an agreement made before the boycott was instigated.

### \$2.7 million prize goes unclaimed

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois (R) — A \$2.7 million state lottery prize drawn a year ago remained unclaimed when a deadline passed for claims at the close of business Monday, lottery officials said.

The winning ticket was sold in the Chicago area and drawn on July 7, 1990. The money automatically reverted to an unclaimed prize fund which will be returned to lottery players in the form of special prizes and other promotions, a spokesman for the lottery said. Thirty-three states in the U.S. operate lotteries.

### Raisa Gorbachev writing her memoirs

NEW YORK (R) — Soviet first lady Raisa Gorbachev is writing an autobiography which she describes as "a book of straight speaking."

HarperCollins publishers have announced: I hope: Reminiscences and Reflections will be published in early September in North America, Europe and the Commonwealth by HarperCollins, which published Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's *Perestroika* in 1987. The book promises a revealing look at the Soviet first lady, speaking out on social and political issues in her country and her impression of the West. It will also describe Mrs. Gorbachev's meetings with former U.S. first lady Nancy Reagan — with whom friction was apparent — Barbara Bush, wife of U.S. President George Bush, and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

In the preface, Mrs. Gorbachev writes: "This is a book of straight speaking, probably at times inconsistent, emotional and patchy." It takes the form of a series of Mrs. Gorbachev's conversations with Soviet writer Georgy Pyatkov. It will be translated from the Russian by David Floyd, who has translated Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Lydia Chukovskaya, and Leonid Brezhnev.

### Euro-parliament backs plan to ban chewing tobacco

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European parliament has backed a plan to stop chewing tobacco being sold in the European Community. Chewing tobacco, the cowboy's favourite, has been updated into a product known as oral moist snuff tobacco. This is seen by tobacco companies as a potential smoke-free money-maker. Swedish and U.S. companies have been particularly active in seeking new markets with smokeless tobacco products, given a growing trend to ban smoking in public and workplaces. But Britain, Ireland and Belgium have already banned moist snuff on health grounds.

According to U.S. and World Health Organisation research, the product is more addictive and more likely to cause cancer than cigarettes. Parliament voted narrowly to back the European Commission's proposals to ban moist snuff from being sold in the Community from July 1, 1992. The proposal will become law if EC ministers endorse the plan.

## Cresson foresees mass airborne expulsions of illegal immigrants

PARIS (AP) — Premier Edith Cresson said Monday that current methods of ousting illegal immigrants do not work and raised the possibility of mass expulsions aboard government-hired planes.

Conservative politicians, who have accused the Socialists of tolerating massive illegal immigration, said Ms. Cresson had finally seen the light. But SOS Racism, a group that works closely with immigrants, said she was using a "dangerous vocabulary" that wouldn't help solve underlying social problems.



Edith Cresson

In two separate interviews, Ms. Cresson stressed that French institutions were "saturated" and said the country needed tougher enforcement of laws restricting immigration.

Ms. Cresson, France's first female premier, appeared unfazed about the possible consequences of taking a tough line on immigration, one of the chief issues she faces. Ms. Cresson was appointed by President Francois Mitterrand on May 15 and quickly became known for making controversial statements.

"Beyond political refugees, we cannot permit new integration," she told U.S. and British reporters.

Only about 20,000 of 120,000 people currently seeking asylum in France would be granted political refugee status, she said.

"We have been obliged, for the past several years, to put an end to immigration," she said.

But she cautioned against making immigrants the scapegoat for deepening economic problems. Unemployment, not immigration, was the source of the current French malaise, she said.

The Socialist premier said she envisioned using special planes to return illegal immigrants to their home countries.

The conservative government of Premier Jacques Chirac used a chartered plane to expel 101 Malians in 1986. The move outraged many politicians and citizens.

Many leading right-wing politi-

cians have latched onto the immigration issue recently, demanding tighter controls.

One of Mr. Chirac's colleagues, former Deputy Security Minister Robert Pandraud, said he rejoiced that Ms. Cresson "has finally taken cognisance of the realities of clandestine immigration."

Ms. Cresson, in an interview with the television Channel TF1, said her proposal was neither a "drifting nor a skidding to the right. It is just that the law must be respected."

Speaking to the Anglo-American Press Club, Ms. Cresson criticised the current system of returning illegal immigrants on regular airlines.

"When you lead an illegal immigrant to a regular airline and he puts up an argument before getting on the plane, the pilot is justified in not taking him," she told reporters. "The pilot is responsible for the security of the plane."

Several polls have given Ms. Cresson the lowest rating for a new premier in recent memory. The reason, she said, was the unpopular measures her government has been forced to take.

The French "are in a period of uncertainty, anxiousness," she said. "We must speak to them in the clearest, simplest way possible."

All are Tamils and more than half are from Sri Lanka, where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are fighting for an independent Tamil state.

Mr. Sivasaran helped the two accused, P. Vijayan, 26, and his father-in-law, S. Bhaskaran, 55, to rent a house in Madras after they fled Sri Lanka as refugees several months ago, and then used it as his hideout, the affidavit said.

Investigators raided the house Monday after a tip-off, it said. The radio had been used to communicate with the northern Sri Lankan city of Jaffna, the Tigers' headquarters.

Investigators believe the Tigers organised Mr. Gandhi's assassination because the group feared his return to power.

In 1987, Mr. Gandhi dispatched troops to Sri Lanka to enforce a peace agreement he brokered between the Tigers and Colombo.

## 2 arrested in hideout of Gandhi assassination mastermind

MADRAS, India (R) — Indian investigators hunting the one-eyed Tamil they believe masterminded Rajiv Gandhi's assassination said Tuesday they had found the suspect's hideout — along with a glass eye.

The wanted man, a Sri Lankan Tamil rebel called Sivasaran, had fled, they told a court in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

But he had left behind a powerful radio and a glass eye, they said.

Mr. Sivasaran used the hideout before and after the former premier's May 21 assassination by a woman suicide bomber, the investigators said in an affidavit to the court.

Two Sri Lankan Tamils accused of sheltering Mr. Sivasaran and a woman, Ms. Subha, believed to have been a stand-by assassin, were brought before the court, which approved their detention under anti-terrorist legislation.

Their arrests took to 13 the number of people detained in connection with the assassination, which occurred as Mr. Gandhi arrived for an election rally near Madras, the Tamil Nadu capital.

## U.N. approves emergency aid for China's flooded regions

PEKING (AP) — U.N. agencies announced plans Tuesday to give medicine, tents, blankets and emergency housing materials to three flood-ravaged provinces in eastern China, where hundreds of people have died and millions remain stranded by flood waters.

Storms and flooding since the beginning of June have killed 978 people, according to official statistics. Because many casualties go unreported in disasters in China, the death toll from the flooding could be much higher.

Chinese officials have warned local officials to prepare for more flooding as rivers, lakes and dam reservoirs threaten to push out of their banks in some areas where more rain is expected. Soldiers

and civilians alike have been mobilised to fight the floods. In Peking, the city Communist Party chief, Li Ximing, advised emergency workers to study the writings of revolutionary leader Mao Tse-tung for inspiration and guidance.

The Central Meteorological Station said Tuesday that some parts of south and southwest China are expected to receive 40 to 80 millimetres of rain in the next two days, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

But Xinhua said rainfall is expected to diminish in the flood-battered areas near Taihu Lake and the Yangtze and Huaihe Rivers in eastern China.

## Carter to monitor elections in Liberia

ATLANTA, Georgia (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has accepted invitation to monitor elections in the war-torn West African nation of Liberia, which was founded by freed American slaves, an aide said Monday.

Mr. Carter — who has previously monitored elections in Nicaragua, Panama, Haiti and the Dominican Republic — accepted invitations, "from all the relevant parties" to monitor the elections, a spokeswoman said. No date has been set.

Mr. Carter said in March that he had received invitation to monitor from President Amos Sawyer of Liberia's interim government of national unity and Charles Taylor, leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia.

Mr. Carter said in March that he would be willing to use his conflict-resolution group known as the International Negotiating Network to monitor Liberian elections if an agreement was worked out among the warring parties.

A year-long civil war in Liberia climaxed last year in the assassination of President Samuel Doe, who had seized power in a 1980 coup. Rival groups are now fighting over the country with remnants of Mr. Doe's army led by General Hezekiah Bowen.

Two rebel groups are seeking to control the country, one led by Prince Johnson, whose forces killed Mr. Doe. In February, the factions agreed to a ceasefire.

Mr. Taylor said he would not disarm his troops before scheduled elections, taking a stand that has wrecked attempts to end Liberia's 18-month civil conflict.

## Yugoslav ethnic tensions rip through one man's life

VINKOVCI, Yugoslavia (AP) — Sixty-seven-year-old Rajko Glodic spent his life not really caring about who his neighbours were.

But when bomb-throwers began attacking his son's pool and pinball hall once a month he realised that to them, he was only a Serb — and they were Croats.

The first bomb struck the night of May 3. The second on June 3. The latest on July 4.

The shop is now closed, and the two employees have fled. The glass door and windows are shattered and shards still litter the sidewalk in front.

Inside, more chaos. A billiard table has a new pocket — in the centre. A pinball machine is spilling its electronic guts.

Who is responsible?

"I think it has something to do with nationality," says Mr. Glodic.

Many people in Yugoslavia know exactly where they stand amid the country's ethnic fault lines. They are Serb, Croat, Slovene, Albanian, Macedonian, or whatever.

But for many families like the Glodics, it is not black and white.

Mr. Glodic grew up in what is now the neighbouring Republic of Bosnia, was raised an Orthodox Christian. At 16, as the oldest of nine children and acting head of household, converted his family to Roman Catholicism under pressure of the then ruling fascist Croatian government.

Soon after, he became a partisan and a Communist, fighting under Josip Broz Tito to create a multi-ethnic Socialist Yugoslavia.

He also married a woman of mixed Serbo-Croatian parentage. They raised two sons. One married a Croatian and moved to the republic's capital Zagreb. The other married a Serb and remained in this city.

"A couple of years ago, we did not care who was who. We didn't ask," said Mr. Glodic after reciting his personal history. "When my son was small, he didn't know his nationality."

"We are mixed, but it does not matter," Mr. Glodic said.

Vinkovci, a city of 35,000 people in eastern Croatia, is 90 per cent Croatian. Mr. Glodic is not the only supposed Serb in the town to be attacked.

A few doors down from him, bombs have destroyed a bar belonging to a middle-aged couple. He is Serbian and she is Croatian. They barricade themselves indoors and will not talk to reporters.

Bombs have also ripped through the Jack Daniels Pub a few blocks away. And in the city of Osijek, 50 kilometres to the north, a bomb destroyed a Serbian-owned cafe early Monday.

In recent months, ethnic tensions in this rich farming region have erupted into open warfare between the Croatian National Guard and Serbian paramilitary fighters who want to see this area west of the Danube River incorporated into a new "greater Serbia."

Croat villagers, fearing Serbian terrorists, have begun fleeing

therefore particularly important for Mr. Gorbachev.

Mr. Yeltsin said recently he would back Mr. Gorbachev as long as the Soviet leader continued to support radical reforms.

But Tuesday's comments were the first time he has specifically said he would back Mr. Gorbachev during the forthcoming elections for national president.

The elections, the first of their kind, are due to be held after the signature of a new union treaty redefining the relations between the centre and outlying republics and the adoption of a new constitution.

Mr. Yeltsin is due to be sworn in as Russian president Wednesday after sweeping to victory in June's direct elections, giving him a broad power base which Mr. Gorbachev — elected president by the country's upper parliament — does not have.

In February Mr. Yeltsin demanded Mr. Gorbachev's resignation, charging he had swung sharply to the right.

But relations have improved steadily since the Soviet leader and the heads of the nine republics in April agreed on an anti-crisis programme to rescue the economy.

Mr. Gorbachev's popularity has slipped dramatically as the country plunges deeper into crisis but a vote of support from Mr. Yeltsin, still regarded as the most popular politician in the country, would give him more chance of winning.

## Actor James Franciscus dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Franciscus, a handsome leading man who played a police detective in the TV series *Naked City* and a blind investigator in *Longstreet*, has died. He was 57.

Franciscus died of emphysema Monday night at the Medical Centre of North Hollywood, said publicist Phil Paladino.

He starred in several television series, beginning with ABC's *Naked City* in 1958. He appeared in the 1961 series *The Investigators*. On CBS, then moved to the role that made him a teenage heartthrob: English teacher John Novak in the NBC drama *Mr. Novak*.

Franciscus portrayed insurance investigators twice, first on *The Investigators* and later as blind Mike Longstreet on the ABC series *Longstreet*.

That role was among his most challenging, he said in 1971, because it was difficult to leave his eyes unfocused.

"You've got to use them, yet not use them," he said. "In the first few shows my eyes would just go out on me along 2 or 3 o'clock. They'd be bloodshot and

watery."

During the 1960s, he produced *Jane Eyre* and *The Red Pony* for television.

Franciscus also starred in the 1970s series *Doc Elliott* on ABC and *Hunter* on CBS.

Twice, his rugged looks cast him in the role of a Kennedy, or a president very much like John F. Kennedy. In the 1981 television movie, *Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy*, he played opposite Jaclyn Smith in the title role.

Three years earlier he played a president in the film *The Greek Tycoon*, with Jacqueline Bisset and Anthony Quinn.

He appeared in the movies *The Outsiders*, *Youngblood Hawke* and *Beneath the Planet Of The Apes*.

The actor was born in Clayton and attended a Massachusetts preparatory school before going on to Yale University. After acting in Summer Stock Theatre in Massachusetts, he was cast in a 1956 film *Four Boys And A Gun*, launching a Hollywood career.

He is survived by his second wife, Carla, and four daughters, Jamie, Kellie, Corie, and Jolie.